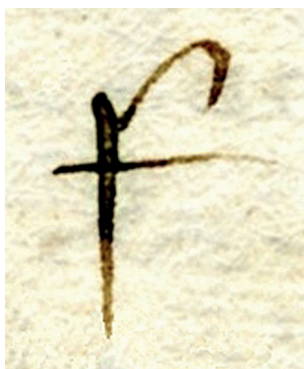


# Barber *alias* Nynne

*Five Hundred Years of Family History in*  
Rotherfield, Tonbridge and Brighton



Geoffrey Barber

Title:

**Barber alias Nynne**

*Five Hundred Years of Family History in Rotherfield, Tonbridge and Brighton*

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Written and Published by:

Geoffrey Barber

Perth, Western Australia

ggbarber@gmail.com

www.barber.org.au

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*Children's children are the crown of old men;*  
Proverbs XVII.6

To Eveline, Jacoby and Corbin – the jewels in my crown.



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# INTRODUCTION

I FIRST MET MY ENGLISH GRANDMOTHER IN 1985 WHEN SHE WAS 87 YEARS OLD. IT was my first time in England, courtesy of a business trip to attend a mining conference in Birmingham. On this first visit I had an epiphany. I had arrived in Brighton to stay with my uncle only to find that he was out, so an elderly neighbour kindly invited me in for a cup of tea while I waited for his return. This lady was exactly like my mother in her speech and her mannerisms and in a moment of sudden awareness I felt the door open to a deeper understanding of my mother. I understood that this place and these people had made her and consequently that it had largely made me even though I was raised in Australia. This helped to trigger a greater search for understanding through family history.

The search for the Barber family history began in my parent's hometown of Brighton in East Sussex. My mother had a good memory for family matters so I made an excellent start getting birth, marriage and death certificates and working back through the census returns. In the 1851 census I discovered that our earliest Barber in Brighton was born in Tonbridge in Kent and, with the help of genealogist Gillian Rickard, started to build an interesting picture of the Barbers who lived there which included three generations of malsters (makers of malt) and a long history of property ownership. A marriage licence dated 1672 between Thomas Barber alias Nin and Mary Rootes both of Tonbridge revealed the first usage of "alias Nin" in the surname, and the mention of a property called Drapers in Thomas's will of 1683 was the means by which earlier generations were traced back to Rotherfield in Sussex. The existence of a surprising amount of manorial records, wills, church records and published research for Rotherfield enabled the line to extend back to 1530, nearly five hundred years of family history.

This book is divided into three sections which correspond to the three localities in which the families lived: Rotherfield c1530-c1670, Tonbridge c1670-c1800, and finally Brighton c1800-1950. While we can never know what these people were like we can try to get an understanding of their lives based on their family events, their occupations, the property they owned and the positions they held in the community. Sometimes we can feel quite close to them, such as when we read of the "*waistcoat that is at the tailor's a-making*" in Elizabeth Barber's will of 1637.

The book traces the family back to the very beginnings of church records (the recording of baptisms, marriages and burials commenced in 1538) and even back a little further through manorial records. I have been very fortunate with this research, much of which has been possible because of research and transcriptions done by others in the past. I have been told that it is a rare achievement indeed to have gone back so far in such detail.

This book also traces about 200 years of ownership of a property in Rotherfield called Drapers which is clearly shown on a 1597 map of the lands of the manor of Rotherfield as being held by Georg Barbar [*sic*]. A list of tax payers in the 1296 Sussex subsidy roll for Rotherfield includes an Alexander Draper and Pullein links him to the property suggesting that he was probably one of the earliest owners. Other Rotherfield properties which were owned by the Barber family include a cottage in the village called “Bonnetts” and a small area of associated land called “Bachelands” which may have connections to John Bache, rector of Rotherfield St Denys 1406-1430. Bonnetts and Bachelands were owned by the Barbers from 1530 and sold in 1677, a few years after the family had moved to Hildenborough in Kent (near Tonbridge), although the more valuable Drapers property was kept until 1787. The income from the Drapers property was probably very important to the prosperity of many generations of Barbers and although they were not wealthy it allowed them to remain land owners and operate their own farms and businesses. They were able to purchase or lease other properties in the Tonbridge area including a house in Hildenborough purchased in 1691, Finches (4 acres) in Tonbridge purchased in 1743, and Tonbridge town site land and shops, some of which was still owned at the time of Mary Barber's death in 1841.

By the late 1700s the Barbers appear to have been in a very comfortable financial position, although it appears that a business venture in Ightham (near Tonbridge and pronounced “Item”!) may have caused the loss of some of their properties. In the early 1800s the family dispersed from Tonbridge with the eldest son Thomas Barber moving to Brighton in Sussex. The move to a larger city saw their occupations change and three generations of cabinet makers/carpenters followed resulting in the families moving from the propertied positions they had in Tonbridge to a more working class existence based on employment with less opportunity for financial improvement. In the case of my own family, this eventually led to migration to Australia seeking better opportunities and higher wages.

Having spent many years on this project I feel it would be remiss of me not to make some personal observations about the family history. While recognising that we have limited knowledge of the actual people involved and the challenges they faced, I feel that there is some wisdom to be gained. Here are my observations:

- The period 1500-1785 appears to be a time of increasing prosperity for the family despite four consecutive generations where the husband died early leaving a widow with a young family. The involvement of extended family members and trusted business connections such as the Wellers in Rotherfield and Tonbridge, and the Polhill and Children families in Tonbridge, is seen again and again in the records. In most cases properties were held for long periods of time and purchased from, leased or sold to other family members. It appears they looked after each other's interests. This may have been out of necessity – you needed to deal with people you could trust – but it also appears to have been effective. Extended family and connections were important.



- Marriage was often a practical arrangement, sometimes postponed until an inheritance was received or occurring after a widowed mother had died, suggesting perhaps that there was a need for a woman to manage the house and also that financial arrangements needed to be in place in order to attract a suitable bride. We must remember that these were times when love was not necessarily the main factor in a marriage and also that there was a lot of work in running a self-supporting household that would have farmed, grown, stored and cooked its own food, baked bread, brewed beer, etc. Much of this would have been the responsibility of the women in the household and an unmarried son inheriting a house or cottage would be in need of a partner. The marriage in 1639 of Thomas Barber (age 54) to the widow Ann Heath (age 30 years), just four months after the death of his mother, appears to fall into this category especially when one considers that there is evidence of a marriage settlement (property rights) being given to Ann at the time of their marriage. The marriage of Thomas Barber to Elizabeth Waite in 1749, just five months after he inherited from his unmarried uncle, is probably another example. These are indications that marriage may have been an arrangement based more on practical considerations than love. The wills left by the husbands do however reflect genuine affection and concern for their wives and indicate to me their importance and status in the family especially when we also consider that as widows they showed they were more than capable as heads of their families.
- I am often drawn to the example of the unmarried uncle, Thomas Barber (1675-1749), a malster whose hard work built up a prosperous business in Tonbridge making malt from barley and who successfully involved his nephew Thomas Barber whose father had died when he was only nine years old. He eventually passed the business and his accumulated properties to the younger Thomas while also looking after other members of his extended family, especially his sister Elizabeth and her family. He appears to have played an important role as a family elder given the early death of his brother Richard who left his wife Margaret with five young children under the age of nine years. His nephew Thomas and his other nephew Richard did not marry until after the uncle died. I think this is another example of where hard work and some sacrifice were required in serving the best interests of the family.
- Ownership of property over long periods of time probably created much of the wealth and more importantly, provided an income to the family in hard times. It also allowed the family to pay an annuity to older parents, equivalent to our modern old age pension. There are two documented examples of this in the Barber family – one in 1662 and another in 1776 – indicating that it may have been a common practice in families that could afford to do so. Having property was important for keeping their families safe and secure and I feel there are lessons here in the importance of financial independence and in the custodianship of assets across more than one generation.

- The decline in Barber family wealth in the 1800's and 1900's is obvious and coincides with the move to the cities. With assistance from his family, Thomas Barber established a business in cabinetmaking/undertaking in Brighton with later generations seeking employment in cabinet making and carpentry and ultimately becoming unskilled. Working for others is generally not the path to wealth, especially in the trades. The move to Australia in 1950 provided access to better wages and gave the ability to save money for home ownership, something which was no longer possible for the family in England. Interestingly, the wider access to higher education in the 20th century has allowed children to seek more professional (and higher paid) levels of employment and our current generations are benefitting from this. Where this leads is for future generations to decide.

There are now three generations of us in Perth, Western Australia, where we are content and well settled. I hope this family history will give all descendants a deeper sense of place and an understanding of who we are, always remembering that it is our free will which gives us the ability to make our own history and set new directions as my parents did in 1950.

I must acknowledge the wonderful work done by Catherine Pullein in her book *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, published in 1928. This book is a treasure to those who have an interest in the history of the parish of Rotherfield. I would, however, like to point out two small errors in the book relating to the Barber alias Nynne family:

- Firstly, Chapter XIX, page 223 in the list of churchwardens – a John Wynde is listed for 1532. This should be John Nynde (who is actually the same person as the John Barber listed for 1531).
- Secondly, Chapter XIII, page 156, fourth paragraph, states that in 1690/91, according to the Rates Book, John Moone “*for some years he had held the Holmans’ twenty-two acres called Drapers*”. He may have held it as a tenant, but the property was owned by Mary Barber in Tonbridge at that time (see Appendix I).

Last year I obtained a copy of Catherine Pullein’s handwritten transcriptions of the churchwarden’s accounts book and five volumes of manorial court rolls transcribed from Latin. The existence of these documents was previously unknown and they came to light when they were handed to Alan Yates, Archivist for the Rotherfield St Denys Church, by the grandson of a deceased former churchwarden who had kept them in a box in her flat. They represent a wonderful find and have provided new information regarding the Barber alias Nynnes in Rotherfield. They are an example of the enormous amount of work done by Pullein for which I am very grateful. I was with Alan when he handed these over to the East Sussex Record Office at The Keep on 9 April 2014.

INTRODUCTION

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Family history research never finishes, but at some point one needs to decide to publish in order to make it available to a wider audience. Long term preservation of the information is also a consideration and a hardcopy book still offers greater security over digital copies which can be so easily deleted and lost.

I know this book will be of interest to other descendants of the Barber alias Nynne families. I also hope it will be a useful addition to the local history of the parishes of Rotherfield in Sussex and Tonbridge/Hildenborough in Kent. Copies will be sent to the local family history societies, county archives, libraries and the Society of Genealogists in London.

*Geoffrey Barber*

December 2014

ggbarber@gmail.com

www.barber.org.au



## CHAPTER 1

# MANORIAL CUSTOMS AND COURTS

**D**URING THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES THE BARBER ALIAS NYNNES LIVED under the rules and customs of the manor of Rotherfield. As tenants of the manor they were required to attend and participate in the manorial courts and were collectively responsible for maintaining law and order as there was no local police force. The manorial records show that they served in various roles such as headborough, constable and jury members. As part of a small village community they also served their parish church as churchwardens and in one case, a church sexton. This community service was in addition to the pursuit of their normal occupations. We know about this because of the survival of the manorial court records and church records.

Genealogists are usually well aware of the church records (parish registers, churchwarden's accounts books, overseers of the poor disbursements and accounts, etc) but fewer have an understanding of manorial records and how the manor operated. As much of the material for this book has come from manorial records, the author feels that it is important to provide the reader with a basic understanding of the manor and manorial courts before proceeding further. This will greatly assist the reader to understand the information presented in subsequent chapters.

This is a highly specialised field of study in which the author makes no claim of authority. The following notes have mostly been taken from the "Further Reading" list at the end of this chapter.

## Feudalism

The system of manorial land tenure, broadly termed feudalism, was conceived in Western Europe and exported to areas affected by Norman expansion during the Middle Ages and in particular to England after the Norman conquest where it was well established by the time of the Domesday Book (1086). It is important to realise that it had many local variations, and evolved considerably between 1100 and the 1500-1800 period considered in this book. In particular, the time of the Black Death (1348) caused severe labour shortages and resulted in many improvements in conditions for manorial tenants, which were quite severe in earlier times. The manorial system is considered to have peaked in the 13th century and entered a period of slow decline thereafter. It was not completely extinguished until 1922.

In England, the dukes, earls and barons who received their lands directly from the king were known as tenants-in-chief. They gave out portions of their lands to knights, esquires and gentlemen who were therefore lords of manors held indirectly of the king. The lord of the manor had legal authority and was supported economically from his own direct landholding in the manor and from the obligatory contributions of the people under his jurisdiction. These obligations could be met by providing labour, payment in kind or with money. As the manorial system declined these obligations became increasingly met by purely financial payments.

The rules and customs under which the manor operated were documented in a 'Custumal of the Manor' and the custumal for the manor of Rotherfield survives and is translated in Catherine Pullein's book *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors* (Chap. VI). It documents the customs under which the tenants held land from the lord of the manor, the services they owed him and the monies they had to pay if those services were not performed. It included a local code of laws regarding personal behaviour and a summary of oral sworn tradition and written legal arrangements between the landlord and his tenants. Custumals were compiled for a practical purpose: to guide and educate successive generations of officials tasked with keeping law and order within the manor. They were modified from time to time to meet the changing interests and needs of their communities.

## What is a Manor?

A manor was an area of land held by feudal tenure, generally from the Crown, so that the lord of the manor was a tenant of the Crown with many obligations – financial, military, law and order, religious, etc. It was very much a social and economic unit, with some of the land held by the lord for his own use and the remainder tenanted by local people or used as common land or waste.

Manorial courts regulated the administration of the manor by enforcing local customs and agricultural practices, settling minor disputes and debts and transferring property rights. Much of the business of the court required fees to be paid and was an important source of revenue for the lord. All tenants of the manor were meant to attend the courts and could be fined for not doing so. From the sixteenth century onwards a property was only considered a manor if its owner held a court for the tenants.

In the early days of the manorial system there were two types of tenants of manorial land:

1. **Villeins** (unfree tenants) – who occupied their lands on condition of rendering services to the lord such as farming his land. Villeins were effectively chattels of the lord and subject to severe restrictions on their personal freedom. They needed

permission to move away from the manor, to allow their daughters to marry and to educate their sons. These personal restrictions eventually disappeared following the outbreak of the plague in the 14th century which created severe labour shortages and left all tenants in a much stronger bargaining position.

Villein land tenure eventually evolved into what was called copyhold tenure and by the 16th century the obligation for service had largely been commuted to monetary payments so that copyhold tenants functioned virtually as free tenants after having paid their rent. This commutation of labour services to monetary payments is a major theme in the evolution and decline of the manorial system. It is worth noting that these monetary payments were often fixed and their value to the lord diminished over time.

2. **Freemen** (free tenants) – who occupied their lands for a money rent paid to the lord in lieu of providing services and as a result had considerable independence. This type of tenure was called freehold.

Both types of tenants had an obligation to attend the manorial courts and to pay homage to the lord. The lord of the manor could hold separate courts for customary tenants (copyholders) and freeholders but it was usually more convenient to deal with both in a single court session. This was the case in the surviving Rotherfield manorial records as most freeholders held copyhold property as well.

Social division however came to be based more on wealth and through holding office in the community rather than these categories of freemen and villeins. There was not necessarily a correlation between a person's wealth and the type of land tenure – an unfree tenant might hold more land than his free neighbour and thus be wealthier.

In the administration of the manor the **Steward** was the chief official (often a lawyer who may serve more than one manor) who held the courts at which lower, appointed officials were bound to attend in person or by deputy.

Some of the other official positions were:

**Bailiff** – a salaried or professional position as the manorial lord's estate manager, subordinate to the Steward. His duties included collecting rents for the landlord and the general overseeing of agricultural and pastoral affairs, often on more than one manor.

**Reeve** – A tenant (villein) elected to organise the daily business of the manor and often their spokesman in negotiations with the lord. Essentially a farm manager or foreman but servile in status and primarily concerned with the management of the land which was set aside for the exclusive use of the lord (called demesne). Although not salaried, he could receive compensation in the form of a remission of rent on his land holdings, release from service to the lord, a grant of property, food etc.

**Hayward** – an assistant to the reeve who had responsibility for sowing the corn, harrowing and organising the harvesting. He guarded the lord's property and supervised the repair of manor or parish fences. He was in charge of cattle and other animals grazing on common land, impounding stray cattle and could issue summons to the manorial court as well as collect fines. Sometimes known as a **beadle** although this may be another official who, if working together with a hayward, might specialise in the collection of rents and fines.

**Constable** – the senior law and order official appointed by the manor or parish. He would also be responsible to the High Constable who was an officer of the Hundred, an administrative division in the county containing a number of parishes (also called a Rape in Sussex). He in turn reported to the Lieutenant of the County.

**Headborough** – the head of a frankpledge or tithing (a group of households collectively responsible for the behaviour of each member) – he was either a constable or his deputy. In 1559 John Nynne (alias Barber) was elected headborough of the area called Southborough and served for one year before another in his group was elected.

Other positions, generally drawn from the manorial tenants, included the **warrener** (gamekeeper), **parker** (caretaker of a park) and **woodward** or **wood reeve** (forest keeper).

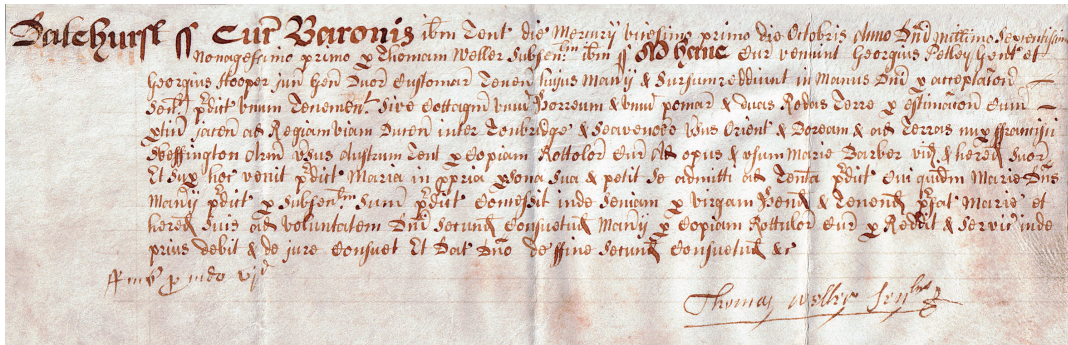
## Land Tenure

The different ways in which land was held and inherited is the very essence of feudal society and an understanding of this is crucial to interpreting manorial records:

**Demesne land** was land held by the lord of the manor for his own benefit (demesne is pronounced *de-main* and is a variant of the word domaine but with a more specific meaning). Other landholders (originally the villeins or unfree tenants but later called copyholders) had significant obligations to farm and maintain this land for the lord's benefit, although this declined over time and was eventually replaced by a fixed rent (called a quit rent) and the lord's land came to be cultivated by paid labourers. Eventually many of the demesne lands were leased out either on a perpetual (i.e. hereditary) or a temporary renewable basis.

**Copyhold or customary tenure** – originally called villein tenure where the land was held in exchange for payment and services provided to the lord of the manor, although the land was still technically owned by the lord. Villein tenants came to be called customary holders/tenants because they held the land at the will of the lord of the manor according to the custom of the manor and all conveyances of





**Fig. 1** The widow Mary Barber’s copy of the manorial court record (in Latin) of her admission to a copyhold property in the manor of Datchurst alias Hilden (now Hildenborough in Kent). It is signed by Thomas Weller, Steward of the manor. The document was part of a collection of records handed to the Tonbridge Library in the 1950s by a local firm of solicitors. *Tonbridge Library*

this land, including descent to an heir, had to pass through the lord’s manorial courts. A more secure form of tenure called copyhold developed from this and was fully established by the start of the 16th century. Unlike the earlier form of villein tenure, the obligations to the lord extended only to the payment of an annual cash rent (called a quit rent), suit (attendance) at the manorial court, an entry fine (a fee payable when a new person was admitted to the property) and a heriot (tax) on death of the tenant. The tenant received a written copy of the court roll entry recording their admission to the property hence the term copyhold tenure and although the land was still held “at the will of the lord according to the custom of the manor” it became largely independent of him. An example of a copyhold “title” is shown in Fig 1.

One of the important tasks of the manorial courts was to record the death of copyhold tenants in the court books, the name of their heir and the name and description of their lands. The land was first “surrendered” back to the lord and the heir then “admitted” to the land. If no heirs existed, the property would revert to the lord’s holdings. Copyhold properties could also be sold and would undergo the same procedure of surrender and admission. An example of a manorial court document recording this process is shown later in the chapter in Fig. 4 and concerns a property held by Thomas Nynne alias Barbour being transferred to Edmund Latter, presumably the result of a sale.

One of the customs of the manor was that when a customary/copyhold tenant died the lord shall have his best animal in the name of a heriot (a feudal due), and this was generally required to be paid before the heir was admitted to the property. We see an example of this when Thomas Nynne alias Barbour was “admitted” to a property on 24 July 1627 after the burial of his father George on 11 April 1627 and that the heriot was “1 Ox color red branded”.

The privilege of the widow to retain tenure of her late husband's copyhold land during her lifetime was called "free bench" and was in fact more generous than that which applied for freehold land where the widow was entitled to hold only a third of the property which was called her "dower". It was called free bench because she became a tenant of the manor and therefore one of the people who sat on the bench occupied by the peers of the manorial court.

The manorial court was generally quite protective of the rights of young children as heirs to a copyhold property when the father died. The widow could not marry without permission or be unchaste otherwise the lord could forfeit her property. Generally a second husband was only allowed to enter his wife's property on sufferance, for the term of her life, and often only during the minority of her children. While it was possible for a wife to surrender her right and seisin (meaning possession) of a property to a new husband, it could only be with the lord's permission and was quite rare.

On the death of a widow, a property usually went wholly to one of the children (the heir). Division of property was generally not a feature of the manorial system. In early times the identity of the heir was determined by the custom of the manor which for most of England was primogeniture (i.e. the eldest son) although the Statute of Wills enacted in 1540 allowed landholders to determine who would inherit by permitting bequest by will. Most wills, however, usually left the landholdings to the eldest son and gave financial compensation to the other children. Where significant property was involved, the heir would likely have had additional financial responsibilities to the wider family such as looking after unmarried sisters and older family members. Sometimes these additional responsibilities were made explicit in the will.

Copyhold tenure was abolished by the Law of Property Act of 1922 (enacted 1926), when all copyhold land became freehold, effectively ending the manorial court system. However, the process of converting copyhold to freehold (called enfranchisement) had begun much earlier and became common in the late 19th century.

**Freehold land** was owned absolutely by the owner who was free to sell it and pass it by will, and so its descent was not governed (or recorded) by the manor. No services were due to the lord except the payment of a fixed rent, liability to "suit" (attend) at the lord's court and to be subject to the lord's jurisdiction. The freeholder was also subject to paying an entry fee (called a relief which might be one year's rent) when the property was purchased or inherited. Because custom played a big part in determining these obligations they could be quite different between manors. For example we find in Kent that freehold tenure could also entail the payment of a heriot on death (as for copyhold).<sup>1</sup>

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1 C.W. Chalklin, *The Rural Economy of a Kentish Wealden Parish 1650-1750* in *The Agricultural History Review*, Vol X, 1962, Part 1, p32.

Freehold tenure was anciently thought the only form of feudal land tenure worthy to be held by a free man. However, in the 16th century in Rotherfield the local people (at all levels) often held lands under both types of tenure. This was certainly the case for the Barbers when they lived in Rotherfield and also later in Hildenborough. The 22 acre property called Drapers at High Cross, Rotherfield was held freehold and as a result it is rarely mentioned in manorial records other than in the accounts where rents are recorded. On the other hand, their house (called Bonnetts) in the Rotherfield village was held copyhold and has an extensive history of surrenders and admissions in the manorial court records as it passed from one generation to another.

On the death of her husband, a widow was entitled to hold one third of her husband's freehold property and this right was called dower. However, it was common for a wife to make an arrangement before marriage whereby she exchanged her right of dower for jointure, which was a specified interest in her husband's property after his death – a particular share, a life interest or an annuity. If she brought property to the marriage then her share in jointure would be expected to be greater than that which she would get under the dower entitlement. Dower applied strictly to freehold property. Jointure however could apply to both freehold and copyhold as it was possible for a copyhold tenant to be given the power to appoint a jointure for his wife. Freehold land descended by Common Law to a man's heir (who was usually the eldest son) so in the case where there was a widow entitled to her dower, the heir would inherit the rest of the property provided that he had come of age. If he was underage, a third party was appointed to hold the land until he reached his majority.

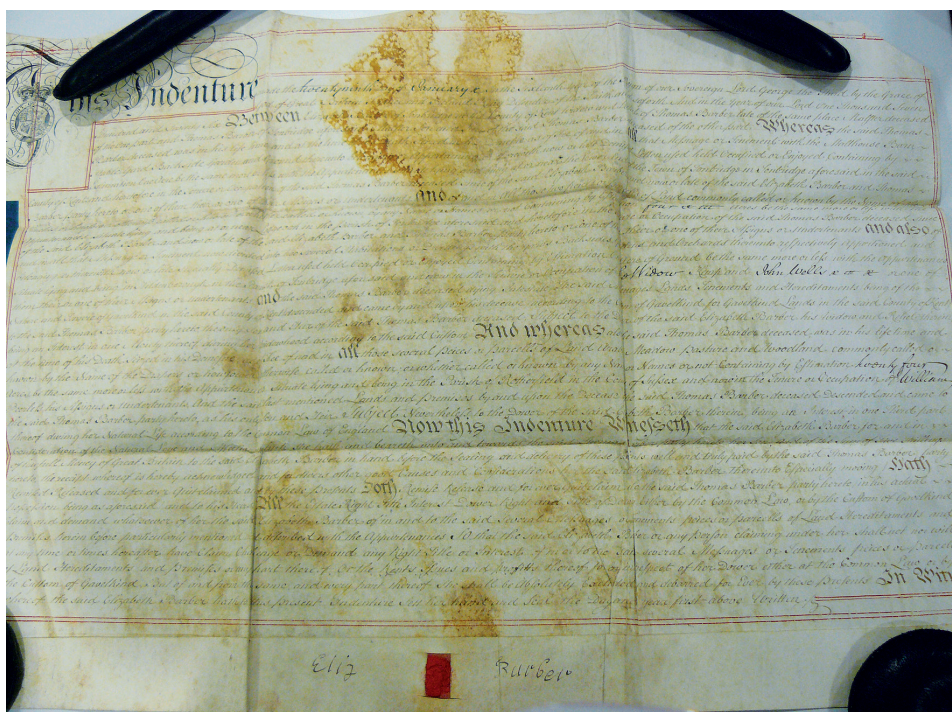
We see an example of dower when Thomas Barber died intestate in 1756 in Tonbridge, Kent. His widow Elizabeth received her right of dower and 20 years later there is a legal agreement (an "Indenture" dated 29 January 1776) where she releases her dower to her 23 year old son Thomas (see Fig. 2). This agreement is not a manorial document as the transaction pertained to freehold land. It is simply an agreement drawn up by a lawyer and signed by the parties involved (in this case only Elizabeth's signature was required).<sup>2</sup>

We see an example of jointure and the benefits it provides to a surviving spouse when Anne Theobald, the widow of Thomas Barber (who had subsequently married Samuel Theobald, her third husband), signs an agreement in 1661/62 with her son and heir Thomas Barber. Ann was left a widow in 1649 and under a jointure agreement with husband Thomas, made at the time of their marriage, she retained full possession of their copyhold and freehold properties in Rotherfield for the rest of her life after his death. The 1661/62 agreement between her and her son is for him to lease these properties in Rotherfield from her, paying her

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2 Woodgate Family, Indenture, Release of Dower, Elizabeth Barber to Thomas Barber, 29 Jan 1776. (KHL: U1109 T17).

# MANORIAL CUSTOMS AND COURTS



**Fig. 2** The indenture (a legal agreement) signed by Elizabeth Barber on 29 January 1776 where she releases her dower to her son Thomas Barber. *Kent History and Library Centre*

the sum of £11/5s per year for the term of her life, and thus providing her with an income. On her death the properties would transfer to Thomas under the original jointure agreement which would have been made to protect Thomas's inheritance (against Anne marrying again after her husband's death – which she did) as much as to provide for Anne.<sup>3</sup>

7 Jan 1661/62 Lease by Samuel Theobold of Tonbridge, Kent, clothier and Ann his wife, to Thomas Barber alias Nine, of Frant, Sussex, then servant to Thomas Weller, gent., of a messuage or tenement, outhouse, barn and stall and a small piece of land lying near the said barn, together with all gardens, closes, backside, etc. in Rotherfield Town. Also, 4 pieces of land and wood containing 22 acres, called Draperys in Rotherfield; all which premises the said Samuel held by right of An his wife made to her by jointure and lease from Thomas Barber alias Nine, her former husband, father of the above named Thomas. Term, the life of the said Ann Theobold party to the deed and mother of the said Thomas: rent yearly £11/5s. Signature of Samuel Theobold, and mark of Ann Theobold & seals. Witnesses: William Jeffrey, Ann Barber (mk)

*Abstract by Sussex Archaeological Society*

3 Sussex Archaeological Society, (ESRO: SAS FA 781).



The yearly rent of £11/5s would have been close to a living wage in 1662 as by comparison the average yearly income for a labouring family of 3-4 people at the end of the 17th century was £15.<sup>4</sup>

A final category of land holder was the **leaseholder**. Leasehold was first used for letting of demesne land which was usually held for a year at a time in the medieval period but later for longer terms. The terms of the lease were determined by the lord of the manor and were not restricted by custom and so could more readily reflect market rates. Leasehold first became popular after the Black Death (1348-1350) as many lords of the manor withdrew from direct cultivation of their demesne land due to labour shortages. This was a significant development as it meant that the decision making about land management was no longer with the aristocracy and gentry associated with the manor, but to a new class of people called farmers who were previously villeins and freemen. It became an increasingly popular form of tenure.

This section has discussed in some detail the different types of land tenure and some of the issues regarding inheritance as they are often the main subject in many of the surviving manorial documents. At this point it would be instructive to look at the 1597 map of the survey of the manor of Rotherfield where these different types of land tenure are clearly marked (Fig. 3). Freehold land is labelled “free” (for example, Georg Barbar’s [*sic*] property), and the demesne land is labelled “demains”. Anything not labelled free or demains would generally be held by copyhold tenure.<sup>5</sup>

## Manorial Courts

Manorial courts regulated the administration of the manor by enforcing local customs and agricultural practices, settling minor disputes and debts and transferring property rights, notably copyhold tenure. All tenants of the manor were meant to attend and could be fined for not doing so. The written records of the proceedings of these courts (court rolls) form the largest part of what we call manorial records.

In addition to manorial courts there was also the common law courts which were administered nationwide under the authority of the monarch. Over time, people were able to resort to the common law courts to resolve their differences over tenure rather than the manorial court. So when studying manorial court rolls we must realise that we are seeing only those matters which came under the jurisdiction of the manorial court and is therefore not a full picture of “life on the manor”.

4 Christopher Hibbert, *The English: A Social History 1066-1945*, Grafton Books (1987), pp. 257-258.

5 Survey (map) of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1597 (ESRO: ACC 363/111).

# MANORIAL CUSTOMS AND COURTS



Fig. 3 A section from the 1597 map of the manor of Rotherfield in Sussex. ESRO: ACC/0363/111

The two main types of manorial courts held are described below:

The **Leet Court** had certain rights of criminal jurisdiction and of appointing some local officials. A system called “Frankpledge” maintained law and order within the manor. It was a system of mutual responsibility within a group of originally about ten households – i.e. they were held corporately responsible for the behaviour of each member and for their appearance at court. The Leet Court was held to examine each group (“inspect” the working of frankpledge) and was also known by its older name, the “View of Frankpledge”. There were three such groups (also called tithings) on the manor of Rotherfield in the 16<sup>th</sup> century: Southborough, Northborough and Frant.

At this court the tenants of the manor (called the homage) assembled and swore fealty. A jury, either formed from the homage or synonymous with the homage, decided on the fines payable for offenses, appointed the officers of the manor such as constables and headboroughs, and heard the cases against miscreant tenants. Each group (tithing) reported to the court via their elected headman or headborough. The court had the power to deal with offences such as common nuisances, affrays, the condition of highways and ditches, and the maintenance of the assize of bread and ale (from 1267 the price of bread and ale was fixed based on prevailing prices of corn and malt). We find in 1631, 1632 and 1634 that Thomas Barber was a member of a three person jury at such a court.

The Leet Court was the lowest level of criminal court in England and more serious offences would be dealt with by the Hundred Court. Reforms to the justice system in Tudor times meant that the role of this court effectively disappeared in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The **Court Baron** was concerned with the lord’s “incidences”, especially what was due to him from movement of tenants. This court enforced payment of all fines (fees) and services due to the lord. Surrender, admission, death, marriage – all entitled the lord to a monetary payment. These fines were recorded, along with details of the incident giving rise to them, in the court roll (book). This court also appointed some local officials including the reeve, bailiff and the hayward.

From the seventeenth century we often see instances of a private court baron being held. This was an ad hoc meeting of the court with only a few suitors present and was probably held to address an urgent piece of business.<sup>6</sup>

An example of a page from a Court Baron roll from the manor of Rotherfield dated 6 December 1677 is shown in Fig. 4. Note that the court rolls were recorded in Latin up until 1733 (with the exception of the period of the Commonwealth) even

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6 P.D.A. Harvey, *Manorial Records*, British Records Association (1999), p. 61.



though the proceedings were conducted in English.<sup>7</sup>

The document starts by identifying the lord of the manor and stating that the steward Thomas Hooper is holding the court. It then proceeds to list the essoins (those excused for non-appearance at court), the homage (the tenants attending the court) and then lists the business of the court.

The first item on this particular document records the surrender of the properties called Bonnetts and Bathelands by Thomas Nynne alias Barbour and the admittance of Edmund Latter to the same property. The reason for the transfer is not given (it was probably sold to Edmund Latter) as the manorial record is primarily concerned with recording the change of ownership and the fee of £3/13s/4d due to the lord of the manor. It reads:

Rotherfield. Court Baron of William Dyke, Esquire, and Ralph Snowden, held in the same place for the tenants of the aforesaid manor on the sixth day of December in the 29th year of the reign of our Lord Charles the Second, by the grace of God, now King of England etc, and in the year of our Lord 1677, by Thomas Hoop [or Hooper], gentleman, steward.

Essoins: None

Homage: Nicholas Hosmer, Abraham Alchorne, Thomas Hosmer (sworn)  
To this Court came Thomas Nynne alias Barbour and surrendered into the hands of the Lords, by the acceptance of their aforesaid steward, one messuage or tenement, one garden and one barn, called Bonnetts, and a certain way leading from the messuage to the aforesaid barn, and also one other garden containing one rood of land called Bathelands lying near the aforesaid barn, and one piece of meadow containing half an acre, and one wooden building, in English a lodge or hovel, and one garden previously Adam Fermor's, situated and lying in Retherfeild, held by rent of [blank], heriot, relief and other services, to the use of Edmund Latter and his heirs, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor. And thereupon to this court came the aforesaid Edmund and sought that he be admitted to the messuage, tenement, barn, garden, lands and premises aforesaid, with the appurtenances, to whom the lords, through their aforesaid steward, granted seisin thereof by rod, to have and to hold to the same Edmund and his heirs, at the will of the lords, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, by the rent and services formerly due in respect thereof and by right accustomed. And he gave to the lords, as fine and heriot, a composition, £3 13s 4d. And he is admitted as tenant thereof. And he has seisin by rod. And he makes fealty to the lords.  
*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2011*

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7 Court Books of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1631-1753 (ESRO: ABE 74O1), p. 252.





Proceedings of all the courts may be recorded on the same manorial court roll and often the proceedings of the Court Leet and the Court Baron were not kept distinct. It is important to note that not all matters considered by the manorial courts were recorded in the court roll which was concerned mainly with recording items affecting the lord's financial interests. For example, the agricultural routine of the manor was regulated by the court but rarely documented.

There were other courts convened from time to time such as a court of survey undertaken to compile a formal survey of the manor and a court of recognition undertaken when a new manorial lord had taken over and whose purpose was to record all the tenants and their holdings and to gain acknowledgement of the rents and services they owed (which could include the steward reciting the customs of the manor).

The manorial courts provided a process for local government and law and order within the community and it is the surviving court rolls for the manor of Rotherfield in Sussex and also the manor of Datchurst in Tonbridge, Kent that have provided significant information on the Barber family and their properties.

## A Description of the Manor of Rotherfield in 1400

The following description of the manor of Rotherfield in the year 1400 brings together many of the concepts and terminology introduced in this chapter.

The lord of the manor, Thomas Lord Le Despenser, died on 13 January 1400. An inquisition post mortem was held to record the death, identify the heir, and document the estate and its value in order to determine what payment was due to the King. Revenue from the deaths of his tenants-in-chief were a significant part of royal revenues. The practice of conducting inquisitions post mortem ceased in 1640.<sup>8</sup>

THOMAS LORD LE DESPENSER

Writ 26 Feb. 1400.

SUSSEX. Inquisition. Rotherfield 15 April

He held the manor of Rotherfield of the king in chief by knight service. There are the site, annual value nil; 64 acres arable at 3d. [per acre], [which equals] 16s.; 80 acres pasture at 2d., 13s.4d.; 56 acres nil because marsh and scrub (buschaill); 20 acres meadow of rushes in various places at 8d., 13s.4d.; 1 chase, number of acres unknown, nil because maintaining the enclosure costs annually £6 beyond the profits; 1 watermill 66s.8d.; site of fulling mill,

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8 Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Vol 18 (1399-1405), HMSO, 1987. On-line at Institute of Historical Research, University of London.

nil because totally destroyed; assize rents [fixed rents for landholdings] of free tenants and villeins £32 payable at the four principal terms by equal parts; various customary works £6 2s.2d., comprising at Candlemas 45s., at Lady Day 7s.6d., at Easter 22s.6d., at Midsummer 15s., and at Michaelmas 32s.2d., from which by the ancient custom of the manor the reeve has 5s. yearly, the beadle 4s.; the custom called 'swonswyne', the tenants rendering £6.13s. at Martinmas; another custom called 'Andrewesreve' at the feast of St. Andrew 50s.; the profits of the fair at the feast of St. Dennis 5s.; view of frankpledge held after Easter and Michaelmas £6; pleas and perquisites of the court nil beyond expenses; a place called Eridge in the aforesaid enclosed chase nil because imparked and occupied by game, which park is called 'Newepark'; another park in the same chase called Hamsell nil because occupied by game. There is a master forester but how much he takes daily is unknown; 1 ranger takes 2d. daily, 60s.8d.; 1 chamberlain, 3 foresters, 2 parkers, 1d. each, £9; 1 forester in the chase in the park on Waterdown 1 1/2d., 45s. [*sic*. Total annual value from E 357/14, m.2: £58 19s.6d.]. William Brenchesle, knight, and his parceners [joint heirs] hold a quarter of a knight's fee in Frant by suit of court there. Thomas le Despenser died on 13 Jan. last. Richard his son and next heir was aged 3 years on 30 Nov. last. [Cf. CIM VII, no. 487 (1414)].

### Further Reading

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H. S. Bennett, *Life on the English Manor 1150-1400*, Cambridge University Press, 1937.

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## CHAPTER TWO

# ORIGINS OF ‘NYNNE’

**T**HE USE OF ‘NYNNE’ IN THE SURNAME (AND ITS MANY VARIANT SPELLINGS) WAS first encountered in a marriage licence dated 1672 between Thomas “Barber alias Nin” and Mary Rootes, both of Tonbridge. As the focus of my research turned to Rotherfield in Sussex I discovered a number of generations of families with the “Barber alias Nynne” surname.

Although Barber, Nynne and Barber alias Nynne have been used interchangeably throughout the records, the trend has been for Nynne to predominate in the early 1500’s, then Nynne alias Barber going into the 1600s and then just Barber after the move to Kent. Interestingly, my 12xg grandfather was recorded as “John Nynd” when he was appointed a churchwarden at the end of 1531 and then “John Barber” in the first entry for the churchwarden’s accounts for 1532, and then John Nynde in the same accounts later that year. If I was to speculate I would say it seems like he knew his real surname was Barber but everyone else referred to him as Nynne, at least in their early years in Rotherfield. Perhaps that is why Barber won out in the end. Unfortunately I have not been able to discover why two surnames were used, although it was not an uncommon practice for those times. One possibility is that he (or someone in an earlier generation) had a wife whose maiden name was Nynne and because her family had higher status he was called by that name. A possible connection based on this line of thought is discussed at the end of the chapter.

## Origin of Surnames in England

Although this is a complex subject the following points provide some useful background:

- Kennett (2012) explains that surnames started to develop in Western Europe from the 11th century onwards. It began with the nobility and then spread to the rest of society so that by the 15th century fixed hereditary names (i.e. surnames) were common although they did emerge in different areas at different times, some much later.<sup>9</sup>
- Redmonds et al (2011) states that before the Norman Conquest no one in England possessed surnames and that it began with the Baron’s wanting to

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9 Debbie Kennett, *The Surnames Handbook*, The History Press (2012).

identify with their estates in Normandy or their new lands in England. By the year 1200 most knights in southern England had surnames but it took much longer in the north. By 1250 the fashion for surnames spread among the ordinary folk, especially in southern England and East Anglia. The period 1300-1350 was a particularly formative time and by the early 15th century few English families were without a (hereditary) surname, although some continued to evolve. Most surnames today go back no earlier than the 14th century.<sup>10</sup>

- The adoption of surnames was driven by the increasing use of written records during the 12th – 14th centuries and the need for a more precise means of identification for such purposes as to prove ownership of land and property for inheritance and to identify debtors and creditors of various feudal dues and taxes. According to Reaney (1997) it was a process that was, in general, driven more by officials than the individual, although the actual choice of a surname appears to have been made more by neighbours (as would a nickname) than by clerks. Eventually everyone came to accept that a surname was a normal requirement of society.<sup>11, 12</sup>
- Of relevance to the Nynne surname is the work by Redmonds et al which show that uncommon surnames often have just one origin, suggesting a common ancestor.

The approach to the study of surnames appears to have changed fundamentally in recent years mainly due to the computerisation of historic surname data (e.g. census returns, hearth tax, subsidy rolls, church records, registrations of births, marriages and deaths), better analytical tools (geographical information systems) and cheaper DNA analysis. In the early 20th century the approach was based on finding the earliest occurrence of a particular surname and then looking for the meaning of the name through an understanding of old languages and place names. The availability of better tools now enables this work to be conducted in greater detail by identifying the geographical concentrations of a particular surname and then studying how it evolved by using individual family histories (genealogy) and DNA.<sup>13</sup>

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10 G. Redmonds, T. King and D. Hey, *Surnames, DNA, & Family History*, OUP (2011), pp. 2,3.

11 P.H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of English Surnames*, 3rd Ed. Revised R.M. Wilson, OUP (1997), pp. xlv-xlvi.

12 G. Redmonds, T. King and D. Hey, *Surnames, DNA, & Family History*, OUP (2011), pp. 56,57.

13 G. Redmonds, T. King and D. Hey, *Surnames, DNA, & Family History*, OUP (2011).

## The Use of an Alias

The use of an alias was very common and was used to connect the different names of a person in order to be more precise about their identity, especially in the written records. A person may acquire different names due to remarriage in the family, illegitimacy or for simply being given a name by others (e.g. a nickname). There are a number of situations which can give rise to the use of an alias. Some examples are:

- A man marrying an heiress or socially superior woman and adopting her family's surname to gain advantage;
- An illegitimate child might be known by two surnames – his mother's maiden name (under which he was born) and her married name (i.e. his step-father's name);
- A person may want to clarify entitlement to property recorded in the manorial rolls under another name. His current surname may be different due to family re-marriage.
- Two or more people with the same name in the village and other villagers giving them a nickname based on where they lived or even their appearance.

In all the above cases the use of an alias served to better identify that person. Its use diminished over time and became obsolete by the mid 19th century. By the 20th century it became associated with fraudulent activity (i.e. by people wanting to disguise their real identity) and had negative connotations. This was certainly not the case in earlier times.

It is not known when the Barber alias Nynne surname was first used but it was at least from 1530 in Rotherfield in Sussex. John was recorded as both John Nynne and John Barber between 1530-32 and as John Nynde when he was buried in 1548. His widow was buried as Joan Nynne alias Barber in 1577. His son John's children were baptised as Nynne but their children were baptised Nynne alias Barber and by 1640 the children are baptised just Barber. We can therefore make the following observations: firstly, that the use of the alias persisted for four generations while the family lived in Rotherfield suggesting it was important; secondly, that it was usually written "Nynne alias Barber" (i.e. Nynne first) in the 16th century; and thirdly, that Barber won out in the end. Could this suggest that his legal name was Barber but that he grew up in a Nynne household? This would occur if he was born illegitimate where the mother's maiden name was Barber and she subsequently married a Nynne, or if he was born as a result of his mother's first marriage to a Barber and who, upon being widowed, later married a Nynne. Another scenario would be that the mother's maiden name was Nynne and she married a Barber but they used both surnames because Nynne was better known or had higher status.

In 1672 the family had moved to Tonbridge, but it was still important for Thomas Barber to state his name as "Barber alias Nin" [*sic*] on his marriage licence, probably because he had inherited property in Rotherfield which was held under

that name in the manorial records. The sale of his parent's cottage in Rotherfield village in 1677 is the last known instance of its use. Living in Tonbridge, Thomas used only the surname Barber on his children's baptisms and the surname Nynne never appears again.

## The Surname Nynne

The surname Nynne is quite rare, particularly in Sussex, although it does appear to become more common in Kent as one goes back into early manorial records (13th-15th centuries) where the surnames "atte Nynne", "de la Nynne" and "Nynne" appear in various documents. It is even rarer in the combination "Nynne alias Barber" (or vice versa) as this is found in only two parishes in Sussex: Rotherfield (primarily) and nearby Ticehurst. I would suggest that anyone with this surname in Sussex is on the same family tree.

A starting point in determining the origin of a surname is to look at its distribution across Britain. This information is available for the 1881 census and the distribution map for the 32 occurrences of Nynne, Nynn, Ninn and Nin is shown in Fig. 5. The map clearly shows the name to be rare, possibly even close to extinction, and probably a single origin surname. The highest concentration was in Ashford, Kent where there were 14 occurrences (all spelt Ninn). The next highest was five occurrences in Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire (all spelt Nynne) and three in Newcastle Upon Tyne (all spelt Nynn).

The author conducted a survey of the occurrence of the surname Nynne (and variants) in the on-line catalogue of documents held by The National Archives in England between c1250 and 1500 and found the name occurred mostly in the Kent parishes of Egerton and, in particular, Great Chart suggesting that this could be where the surname originated. Both of these parishes are within the Ashford area mentioned above.

The subsidy rolls (lists of taxpayers) provide valuable data for surname distribution studies although they do not include everyone, only the taxpayers. The Kent Lay Subsidy Roll of 1334/5 has only one occurrence of the Nynne surname and that is William atte Nynne in the Hundred of [Great] Chart who paid 4s/0<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. This was a tax based on the value of moveable goods (one fifteenth for rural areas and one tenth for urban areas) with the poorest inhabitants exempt.<sup>14</sup>

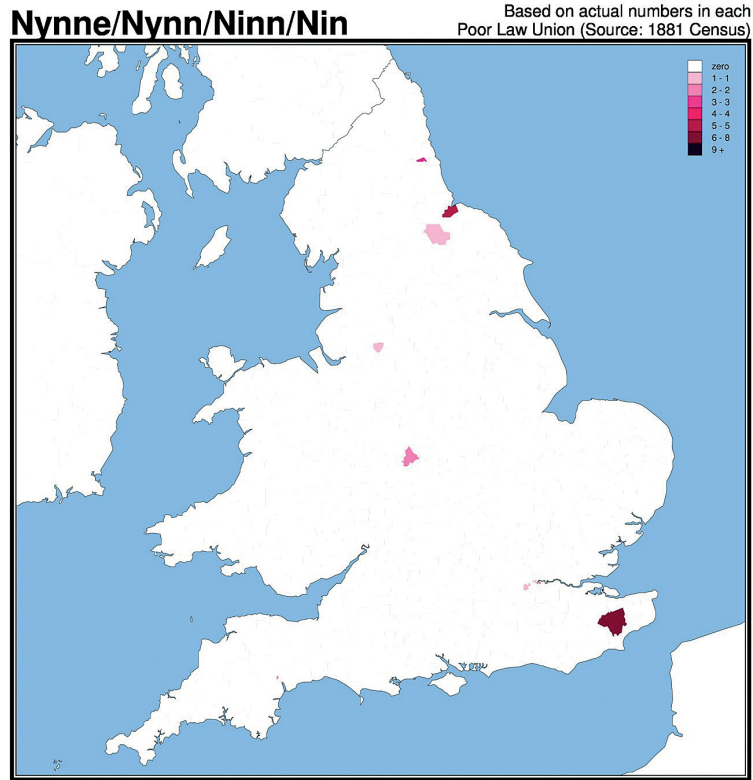
One of the earliest occurrences of the name is in April 1259, also at Great Chart in Kent, where a Simon atte Nynne is one of a number of witnesses on a document concerning an annual payment made at the manorial court. The names of some of the other witnesses are interesting in the context of surname study: Thomas

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14 Ed. H.A. Hanley and C.W. Chalklin, *Kent Lay Subsidy Roll of 1334/5*, Kent Archaeological Society (2008).



## ORIGINS OF 'NYNNE'



**Fig. 5** Distribution map for surnames Nynne, Nynn, Ninn and Nin in the 1881 census. The highest concentration is around Ashford in Kent.

*The British 19th Century Surnames Atlas, ver. 1.10, Archer Software, 2003-2011*

the smith, William of Upton, Henry son of Matthew, Benjamin the bedel.<sup>15</sup> Some of these names may have evolved into hereditary surnames and others not. For example Thomas “the smith” may not have been a hereditary name at this stage and may simply be a descriptor reflecting his occupation, in which case the name “smith” would be termed a byname. It is only called a surname when it is shown to have become hereditary and passed from father to son. We can be sure though that “atte Nynne” was indeed a surname in 1259 as the name occurs thereafter in Great Chart and so had become hereditary. This would mean that Nynne became a surname fairly early and is therefore older than most which, according to Redmonds et al, only date back to the 14th century.<sup>16</sup>

Further investigation of the area around Great Chart reveals the likely connection to a local place name, Ninne House manor. The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent, Volume 7, by Edward Hasted published in 1798 mentions this manor in Great Chart:

15 Canterbury Cathedral Archives: CCA-DCc-ChAnt/C/322

16 G. Redmonds, T. King and D. Hey, *Surnames, DNA, & Family History*, OUP (2011), p. 59

# ORIGINS OF 'NYNNE'

NINNEHOUSE is a manor, situated on the northern side of the quarry-hill, not far from the river Stour, which was antiently [anciently] the residence of John at Nin, whose figure, in armour, was with those of other eminent men formerly in the north window of the north chancel of this church; in whose descendants it continued till the reign of Henry VI. when it was alienated to Sharpe; one of whom, William Sharpe, of this place, died possessed of it in 1499, and lies buried in the middle isle of this church, with his five wives, as does his descendant William Sharpe the elder, who died in 1583.

The location of Ninn(e) House is shown in Fig. 6. A Ninn farm and Ninn Lane survive there today but unfortunately the lead light windows in the church are long gone, possibly removed during the time of Oliver Cromwell in the mid 1600's.

Following the publication of an article I wrote for the Sussex Family Historian a member of the Sussex Family History Group gave this information about the surname Nynne:<sup>17, 18</sup>

The online A2A section of the National Archives holds all the clues you need to unlock the story of the name. You've already quoted one significant clue in your article - the name 'de la Nynne'. Nynne clearly falls into the group of surnames which derive from a place or specific location. If you search further in the above records you'll find that the name in Great Chart also appears as 'de la hinne', 'de la Inne' and 'atten Inne' in the mid to late 1200's. A reputable Middle English dictionary (or similar online info) will reveal that hinne, hin, ynne, ine and inne all meant the same thing in medieval times - a lodging house or rooms for guests (i.e. an inn). The word 'inn' also existed in Saxon times and has never changed. When 'atten' is placed in front of a locative name beginning with a vowel such as 'inne', you'll find that when spoken out loud the last letter of 'atten' transfers across. Try this yourself and see! Any words which were not in Latin were written down phonetically at this time, so the clerks wrote down exactly what they heard - which was ninne. This also happened to other locative words which became surnames, such as ash and oak. 'Atten' gradually became atte, resulting in the name 'atte Nynne' or 'atte Ninne', masking its original form entirely. The records in A2A chart every step of this interesting process. Only once the surname had become fixed and hereditary (this happened at different times in different areas) would 'de la' and 'atte' have been dropped, leaving just Nynne, Ninne, Nin, Nenne etc. Ninnehouse simply meant the inn house at Great Chart manor. You may know that Great Chart (owned by Christchurch Priory, Canterbury) was just one of numerous manors the priory held in Kent. There were others elsewhere. Inns became increasingly common in 12th

17 Geoffrey Barber, *The Barber alias Nynnes of Rotherfield* in Sussex Family Historian, Vol. 20, No. 3, September 2012, pp. 101-106.

18 Claire McGill, email titled *Your SFH Article* to Geoffrey Barber, 27 Sep 2012.

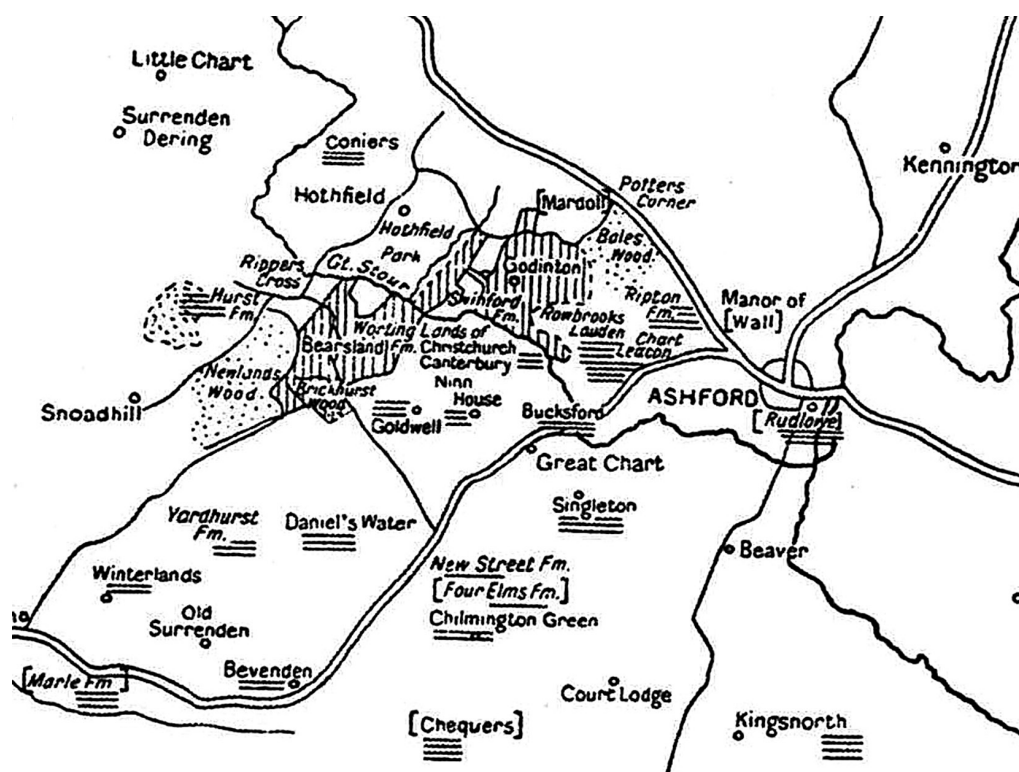


Fig. 6 Sketch Map showing location of Ninn House near Ashford, Kent

and 13th century England and because manors were more important than villages, these would have been the location for the earliest inns. Ninnhouse would have been one of several farms on Great Chart manor and the one which specifically provided food and overnight accommodation for visitors, travellers and pilgrims and stabling for their horses. A John atte Nynne does appear in the archives, as a witness to a grant. You will find him in 1349 in the A2A records. Hasted's record (copied from elsewhere) saying that John was depicted in armour should be taken with a pinch of salt I think. There are no records of any knight with the name of Nynne or Ninne.

The surname Nynne would therefore be categorised as a locative surname being derived from a place-name. It is likely to be a single origin name (at least in southern England) meaning it would go back to just one ancestor who was the first to start using Nynne as a surname. Given its early occurrence as a surname (at least c1250) we could also speculate that the person of origin is more likely to be someone with a hereditary connection to the manor/farm rather than someone who just worked there, as otherwise the name would probably have been used just as a byname.

The surname Barber, on the other hand, is clearly an occupational, multi-origin surname and the Oxford *A Dictionary of English Surnames* (1997) states that the

barber was formerly a regular practitioner in surgery and dentistry. This would have included bone setting, bloodletting and leeching, fire cupping, enemas, and the extraction of teeth; earning them the name “barber surgeons”.

The surname Nynne has been spelt various ways (i.e. has many variants) – Nynne, Nyne, Ninne, Nynde, Nynder, Nynd, Nin, Ninn and Nyn with the most common spelling being Nynne prior to c1600. From 1700 onwards, the name is spelt Ninn in Kent. A list of Ninn births in England between 1950 and 2006 contains just nine names, eight in Kent and one in Sussex, highlighting the rarity of the name today. Interestingly, five of these are in Ashford, Kent which is adjacent to Great Chart, the likely ancestral home of the name.

The surname would have almost certainly been pronounced “Ninn”. In Kent, the surname was most commonly spelt ‘Nynne’ up to about c1600 and then ‘Ninn’. This is just a peculiarity of spelling of those times, where ‘i’ was usually replaced by ‘y’ and often an ‘e’ put on the end to confirm the pronunciation as ‘ninn’ and not ‘nine’ or ‘ninny’.

At present it is not known where John and Joan, the first Barber alias Nynnes in Rotherfield, were born or married. They appear in the manorial records in 1530 and there is no mention of either Barber or Nynne before then. The burial of a Robert Nynder [*sic*] on 1 Nov 1548 in Rotherfield is of interest as although there is no information to place him in any family, he could be a son of John and Joan, or a brother of either, or even an uncle or father. This is potentially significant because of a relationship between a Robert Nynne and the Nevill(e) family in Kent. The Neville family became lords of Rotherfield manor as a consequence of a marriage in 1450 and it remains with them to this day. In 1542 Thomas Neville, brother of the then Lord Bergavenny (lord of Rotherfield manor) and a lawyer and Speaker of the House of Commons, died at Mereworth castle, Kent and his will leaves bequests to his servants among who is a Robert Nynne who also acted as an executor of the will.<sup>19, 20</sup> Robert Nynne also appears as a witness in the will of John Godden of nearby Ryarsh in 1546 and was described as a yeoman of Maidstone in 1537.<sup>21</sup> It is possible that John and Joan were linked to the family of this Robert Nynne who obviously had significant status in the Neville family. This could explain why the surname Nynne was favoured in the 16th century in Rotherfield if, for example, a daughter of the Nynne family married a Barber.

19 Medieval & Tudor Kent P.C.C. Wills, Transcriptions by L. L. Duncan - Book 15, p. 551

20 Will of Sir Thomas Neville, dated 23 May 1542, proved 23 Oct 1542 (The National Archives: PROB 11/29, ff. 82-3)

21 Will of John Godden of Reyershe (Ryarsh), dated 26 Jul 1546, proved 5 Oct 1546 (Consistory of Rochester, Liber 10 (1542-1547), folio 192)

## CHAPTER THREE

# ROTHERFIELD 1530-1677

**R**OTHERFIELD MEANS “THE OPEN COUNTRY WHERE THE HORNED CATTLE FEED”. The Anglo-Saxon word *brither* evolved into the Middle English word *rother* meaning horned cattle. It was originally one of just a few clearings formed in the dense Sussex weald (forest).

Sussex (meaning South Saxons) had been settled by the Saxons in the late 5th century with the first arrival said to have been in AD477. The siege and massacre at Pevensey in AD491 is notable as the last of the written history of Sussex at that time until AD607, when it is reported that Ceolwulf of Wessex fought against the South Saxons. Sussex came to be dominated by Wessex (the West Saxons) and by the early AD770s had become part of the kingdom of Wessex.

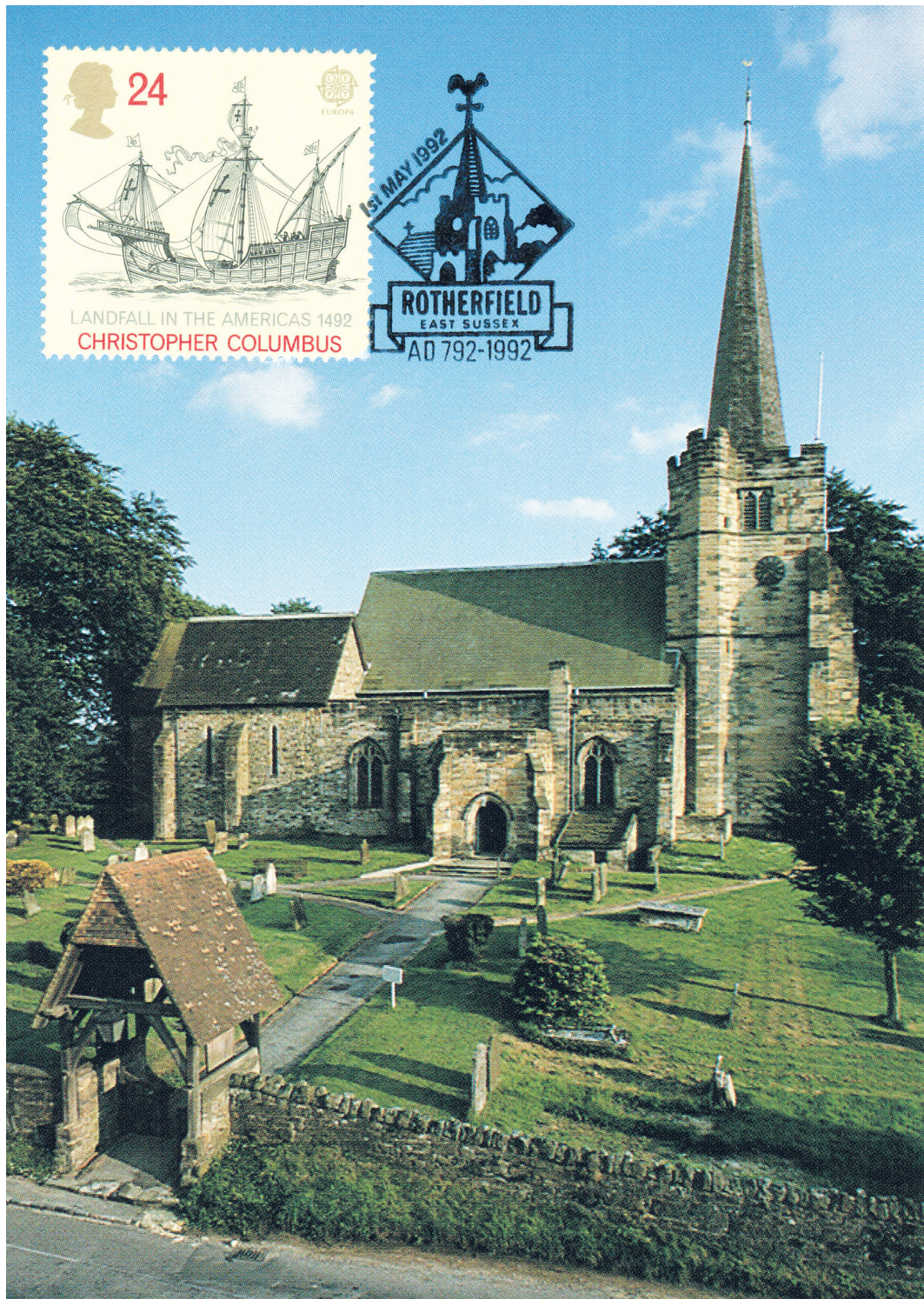
The written history of Rotherfield begins circa AD790 when the Saxon “duke”, Berhtwald, gifts his estate called “Ridrefeld” to the Abbey of St Denys in Paris, France. Hence the dedication of the church in Rotherfield to St Denys, a patron saint of France. The church and lands were taken back from the Abbey soon after the Norman Conquest in 1066 but the church is still known today as Rotherfield St Denys.

The oldest part of the present sandstone church is said to date back to about 1060, with additions in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. The tower and porch were added in the 15th century, although the spire was destroyed in the Great Storm of 1987 and has since been rebuilt.

In the church yard stands an ancient Yew tree certified to be about 1500 years old which would have been a landmark in the village even in 1530, the year we first find evidence of the Barber alias Nynnes in Rotherfield. The Yew tree is shown in a drawing of the church made in 1850 (Fig. 8) and also in photographs taken in 2011 (Fig. 9) and 2012 (Fig. 10).

Christianity was introduced to Britain in the 6th century and evolved as part of the Roman church under the authority of the pope. In 1531 there was a major split from the Roman church when Henry VIII established the Anglican Church (or Church of England). This was when the clergy of England recognized Henry VIII as the head of the church, replacing the Pope. That same year, John Nynne alias Barber was appointed churchwarden at Rotherfield St Denys.





**Fig. 7** Rotherfield St Denys Church on a postcard celebrating 1200 years of church and village, AD 792-1992. *Private collection of G. Barber*





**Fig. 8** Rotherfield St Denys church 1850 with the ancient Yew tree. *Pullein 1928*



**Fig. 9** Rotherfield St Denys church and the yew tree in May 2011. *Photo: G. Barber, 2011*



**Fig. 10** The Rotherfield St Denys church yew tree in May 2012. *Photo: G. Barber, 2012*

On 5 September 1538 Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Vicar General, ordered that each parish priest must keep a book and that the Parson, in the presence of the wardens, must enter all the baptisms, marriages and burials of the previous week. The surviving records are now a treasure trove for genealogists and without them this book would not be possible.

The Barber alias Nynnes made a significant contribution to the church of Rotherfield St Denys during the next 100 years. There were four generations of father to son churchwardens:

- 1531 John Nynne alias Barber (also church sexton 1548)
- 1572 John Nynne alias Barber
- 1603 George Nynne alias Barber
- 1637 Thomas Barber alias Nynne

George Nynne alias Barber was one of the churchwardens when a new bell was made for the church and it has his name on it: "*Georg Barber, Edmund Knell, Wardens 1603*". It survives today and is the fifth bell in a peal of eight.

The reign of 'Bloody Queen Mary' 1553-1558 had a great impact on the village of Rotherfield and is worthy of mention because of the family's connection to the church. Queen Mary sought to reintroduce Catholicism in England and three citizens of Rotherfield were burnt at the stake in Lewes for their Protestant beliefs. Two of these citizens were from the Ashdown family, a surname with a long history in Rotherfield and one that is often mentioned in the same manorial records where we find the Barbers. This would surely have been a dark period for the village and there is a gap in the church baptism, marriage and burial registers between 1555 and 1558 due to the upheaval. Further reading on the Sussex martyrs is recommended to get an appreciation of these times.<sup>22</sup>

The Gunpowder Plot of 1605 was almost a sequel to the reign of Bloody Queen Mary because of its link to Catholicism and was an event that resounded throughout England. In this plot Guy Fawkes attempted to assassinate King James by blowing up the House of Lords during the State Opening of England's Parliament on 5th November. It was to be a prelude of a popular revolt in the Midlands during which King James's nine year old daughter Elizabeth was to be installed as the Catholic head of state. The principal Jesuit of England was implicated and the government made much of the Catholic connection in his "show trial". In 1606 the 5th of November was made a day of public thanksgiving to celebrate that the King had survived. However, it was also the focus for strong anti-Catholic sentiment, with most celebrations featuring banners declaring "no-popery" and effigies of the pope being burnt. The annual 5th of November bonfire procession through the East Sussex town of Lewes has now become legendary. In the procession you will probably see the banners of the Rotherfield

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22 Edward T. Stoneham, *Sussex Martyrs of the Reformation*, Fourth Edition (1983).

and Mark Cross Bonfire Society. Many villages, including Rotherfield, also hold their own processions.

Another period of turmoil came with the English Civil War (1642-1651) where the Parliamentarians fought the Royalists and eventually won, leading to the beheading of Charles I on 30 January 1649. A period of Parliamentary rule followed from 1649 to 1653 and then a Protectorate under Oliver Cromwell's personal rule 1653-1659. The monarchy was ultimately restored in 1661 after the death of Oliver Cromwell in 1659. While there were no battles of national significance in Sussex and the impact on Rotherfield appears to have been minimal, church records were poorly kept during this period and many are now missing after being destroyed or hidden by the clergy. During 1653-1660 the registering of births, marriages and deaths was taken over by civil officers but the registers were returned to the churches following the Restoration in 1660. So the period 1642-1660 is one where many baptism, marriage and burial records may be missing or lost.

I mention these events here to provide some historical background as little of this comes through the church records, the property transactions, or tax records, etc. on which this family history is constructed. A broader history of Rotherfield is beyond the scope of this book, but a good starting point for the reader would be Catherine Pulein's book.<sup>23</sup>

Lastly, it is worth noting that the first English settlement in the Americas occurred in 1607 when Jamestown in the Colony of Virginia was founded. This was one of the first centres of English colonisation and from this time forward emigration grew to become an attractive option for people in Sussex, especially in the 19th and 20th Centuries. When researching family history we often find whole families disappearing from the records and emigration must be considered a real possibility in these cases.

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23 Catherine Pulein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, Courier, Tunbridge Wells, (1928).

## John Nynne *alias* Barber c1500-1548 & Joan c1500-1577

John Nynne alias Barber, b. c1500, bur. 25 Jan 1548 at Rotherfield, Sussex  
+Joan (---), b. c1500, m. c1525, bur. 13 Jul 1577 at Rotherfield  
— John Nynne alias Barber, b. c1530, bur. 15 May 1591 at Rotherfield  
— +Alice Farmer, b. c1530, m. 8 Apr 1554 at Rotherfield, bur. 16 Jun 1595 at Rotherfield  
— George Nynne alias Barber, b. c1554, bur. 6 Jan 1555 at Rotherfield  
— George Nynne alias Barber, b. c1558, bur. 11 Apr 1627 at Rotherfield  
— William Nynne alias Barber, b. c1570, bur. 30 Jul 1629 at Rotherfield  
— Mary Nynne alias Barber, bap. 5 Jun 1562 at Rotherfield  
— John Nynne alias Barber  
— Margaret Nynne alias Barber, bur. 26 Mar 1595 at Rotherfield  
— William Nynne alias Barber, bur. 1 Mar 1548 at Rotherfield  
— Thomas Nynne alias Barber, bap. 30 Jul 1542 at Rotherfield



John and Joan Nynne alias Barber are our earliest ancestors on this family tree. The first evidence of them occurs in 1530 in the court books of the manor of Rotherfield when they acquired a cottage from Thomas Morley:<sup>24</sup>

On 11 May 1530, Copy Surrender of Tho. Morley & Rose his wife to use of Joh Nynde & Joan his wife, cottage with kitchen (coquinam), & garden, in Retherfield also small parcel land of 1/2 acre, & garden belonging, late Alice Downe's.

Transfers of property held by copyhold tenure required the property to be first “surrendered” to the lord of the manor who would then admit the new tenant after payment of the entry fine. The word “copy” refers to the title to the property which was simply a copy of the entry in the manorial court book recording the transfer of ownership. Hence the opening words “Copy Surrender”.

The cottage acquired is Bonnetts, as prior to this in 1516 Thomas Morley acquired Bonnetts and a small parcel of land from the widow Alice A'Downe:<sup>25</sup>

27 Sep 1516 Copy Surrender of Alice A'Downe, widow, to use of Tho. Morley. Small parcel land (belonging to?) a cottage called Bonnetts on Retherfield Hill.

This property was kept in the Barber family until 1677 when it was acquired by Edmund Latter, almost certainly a family relative.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Sussex Archaeological Society, (ESRO: SAS AB 396).

<sup>25</sup> Sussex Archaeological Society, (ESRO: SAS AB 395).

<sup>26</sup> Court Books of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1631-1753 (ESRO: ABE 74O1) p. 252.



Regarding the earlier history of this property, the court rolls for the manor of Rotherfield in 1456 has the entry:<sup>27</sup>

The homag present that the tenement of Simon Bonnet viz the plastered hall & grange, are ruiness. Therefore he has a day before Easter next under pain of 13/4 [13s/4d fine] 34HVI [1456].

It is possible that this house was the one that came to be known as Bonnetts but we cannot be sure. Note that a grange, in this context, probably refers to a barn or granary, as this is the old meaning of the word. Two years earlier, in 1454, Simon Bonnet had been mentioned in the court rolls for the same problem:

The Homag present that the buildings of John Astyn are in decay in everything. And the house of Simon Bonnet. And the houses of John at Fryth, John Hunt & Thos A'Downe.

When George Nynne was admitted to the property in 1591 it was described as:<sup>28</sup>

Messuage with garden on R. hyll [Rotherfield Hill] containing 1 rod & 1 barn formerly called Bennetts with a road [called a “way” in all later records] to the said messuage & barn & a garden containing 1 rod called Bacheland near the said barn & a parcel of meadow containing 1/2 ac. & 1 kitchen formerly Alice Adowne's & 1 garden formerly Adam Farmer's of which John N. his father died siesed [possessed].

It appears that the adjacent garden called Bachelands had been added to the property sometime between 1530 and 1591. It is possible that there is an earlier association between Bachelands and John Bache/Bathe, rector of Rotherfield 1406 to 1430.<sup>29</sup>

The rather unique and detailed description of the property (with the “Way”, ½ acre meadow, garden of 1 rod, etc.), its location on Rotherfield Hill (now Church Road or the B2100) and the fact that this description remained unchanged in the manorial records at least until 1854, allows the location of the property to be identified on the 1842 tithe map. We see that the property would have been at the location of the current Town Hill House, a Grade II listed property dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century which is just across the road from the church (see Appendix II for full discussion, maps, photographs, etc.). It appears that the cottage has not survived, unless it has been incorporated in the newer house.<sup>30</sup>

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27 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1444 - 1457, Vol. 1 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR465/26/1/1).

28 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3), p. 80a (p. 58 of PDF).

29 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 193.

30 Webpage *English Heritage* “<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1193894>”

The previous owner of Bonnetts cottage, Thomas Morley, was also the owner of a 22½ acre property called Drapers. It is documented in the 1509 yearly rents of Rotherfield Church: “*Thomas Morley for Drapers on Mich. ijd*”.<sup>31</sup> (Mich. meaning Michaelmas when the payment ijd (2 pence) was due). Drapers also eventually came into the Nynne alias Barber family sometime before 1580. Catherine Pullein’s personal notes mention an undated quit rental record which she says would be dated before Feb 1580.<sup>32</sup>

John Nynn. For 12 acres of freland called Drapers lying between scottyll croch and fathermans. For 10 1/2 acres (ditto).

It may be that there was a family connection to Thomas Morley given that the transfer of Drapers would be the second property to come from him and that many properties tended to stay within a family for generations. Even the eventual disposal of Bonnetts and Bachelands in 1677 was to a family relative, Edmund Latter.<sup>33</sup>

On 11 June 1531, John Barber was made a churchwarden of Rotherfield St Denys. He was also a churchwarden again in 1532 but this time his name is written as John Nynde (Catherine Pullein’s book incorrectly transcribes his name as John Wynde).<sup>34</sup> In 1532 the wardens of Rotherfield Church, John Barber and John Filknisch, were responsible for “*pewes and setys made in the church on the xix may*” (Fig. 11). This was the introduction of pews into the church for the first time as prior to this most parishioners sat and knelt on a rush strewn floor with possibly some stone benches affixed to the walls for the wealthy.<sup>35,36</sup>

John Nynne alias Barber was buried in 1548 at Rotherfield, Sussex.<sup>37</sup> His burial entry reads “*25 Jan 1548 John Nynde, Sexton*” indicating that John, as sexton, was responsible for the care and maintenance of the church property, setting up the church for services and possibly also the ringing of bells and burials (mentioned in a Tonbridge churchwarden’s account book 1749: “*Sexton’s fee for burying Richard Webb 2s/8d*”<sup>38</sup>). Given that he was a churchwarden when the pews were first installed in the church and sexton when he died, he probably had gained a lot of knowledge about the church buildings over his lifetime. The location of Bonnetts cottage on Rotherfield Hill (now Church Road) also shows that he lived very close to the church.

31 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 235.

32 Private notebook of Catherine Pullein (Sussex Archaeological Society’s Barbican Library, Lewes) from the box file marked “Pullein” in the Working Papers Room, p. 108.

33 Court Books of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1631-1753 (ESRO: ABE 74O1) p. 252.

34 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 223.

35 Churchwardens account book of the parish of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1510-1675 (ESRO: PAR 465/10/3/1).

36 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 245.

37 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 465).

38 Edward P. Wilmot, *Tonbridge Parish 1600-1750*, Tonbridge Free Press (1953) (Tonbridge Library).



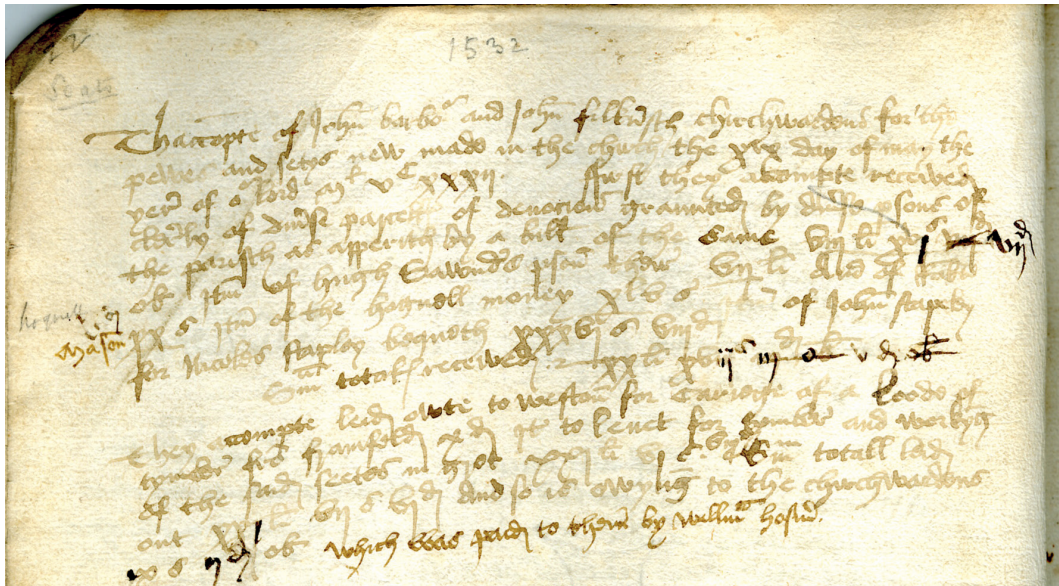


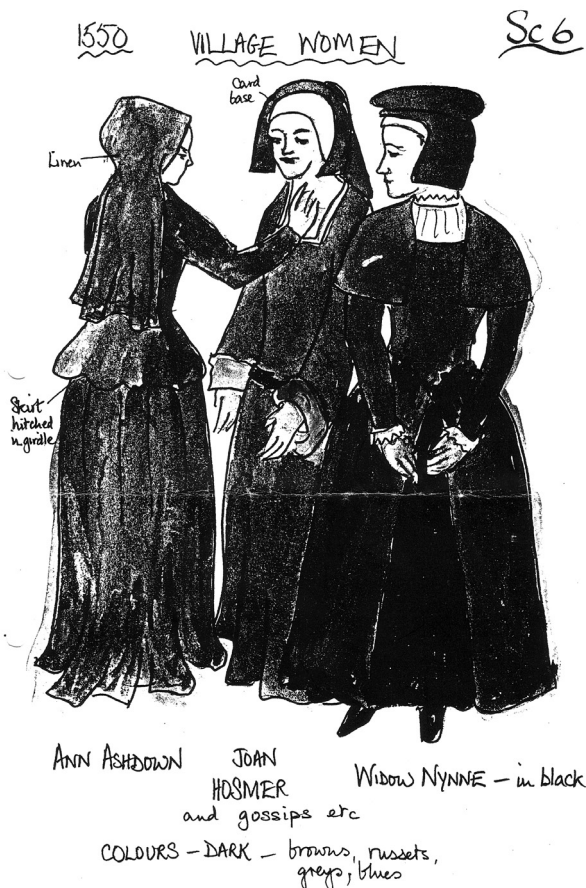
Fig. 11 Entry from the churchwardens' account book 1532 regarding the building of "pewes and setys". ESRO

John became churchwarden at a very interesting time in church history. In 1531 the Anglican Church was formed when the clergy of England recognized Henry VIII as the head of the church, replacing the Pope. Initially, the English church didn't really change; it was still for all practical purposes a Catholic Church. The only real difference that anybody would notice was the use of English Bibles introduced in 1539. However, it changed radically under Henry's successor, Edward VI (ruled 1547-1553) who was Henry's third child, born by his third wife, Jane Seymour. Edward was only a teenager when he became king but he thoroughly sympathized with the Protestant cause. Edward and Thomas Cranmer set about turning the Church of England into a Protestant church. He allowed the clergy to marry and in 1549 imposed Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer on all church services. He also ordered all images and altars to be removed from churches. Edward, however, died in 1553 only six years into his reign. As John Barber died in 1548 he would have missed these more significant reforms, but his wife Joan (buried in Rotherfield 1577) and their children would have experienced it all including the reign of 'Bloody Queen Mary' which followed and resulted in three people from Rotherfield being burnt at the stake for heresy.

Mary succeeded Edward VI in 1553 and reigned until 1558. She had been raised a devout Catholic in France and when she assumed the throne of England she declared England to be a Catholic country and assertively went about converting churches back to Catholic practices. Images and altars were returned, the Book of Common Prayer was removed, and clerical celibacy was re-imposed. She

punished opposition severely and because of the sheer number of executions of Protestants the English people eventually called her 'Bloody Mary'. Had she lived longer, England would probably have reverted to Catholicism for another century or so.<sup>39, 40</sup>

In 1992 a pageant was staged in Rotherfield to celebrate 1200 years of church and village history. There were many characters in the pageant that were based on real people and those chosen for the 1550s included 'Widow Nynne'. The writer of the pageant, Jean McConnell, obviously knew her local history as the other characters for the 1550s are Ann Ashdown who was burnt at the stake for heresy in 1557 and Joan Hosmer who was the mother of Alexander Hosmer who was also burnt at the stake with Ann. Widow Nynne was probably included because the family is mentioned a number of times in the church records (there is the Joan Nynne burial in 1577 and Widow Nynne burials in 1595 and 1638). The character Widow Nynne was played by actor Alison Organ who also designed the costumes (Fig. 12).



**Fig. 12** The characters and costumes designed to represent village women in 1550 for the 1992 Rotherfield Pageant (written by Jean McConnell, costume design by Alison Organ). *Used with permission of Alison Organ*

39 Webpage: *Protestant England* (<http://public.wsu.edu/~dee/REFORM/ENGLAND.HTM>), 25 June 2011.

40 Webpage: *Wikipedia* (<http://en.wikipedia.org/>) "Thomas Cranmer".

## John Nynne *alias* Barber c1530-1591 & Alice Farmer c1530-1595

John Nynne *alias* Barber, b. c1530, bur. 15 May 1591 at Rotherfield, Sussex  
 +Alice Farmer, b. c1530, m. 8 Apr 1554 at Rotherfield, bur. 16 Jun 1595 at Rotherfield

- George Nynne *alias* Barber, b. c1554, bur. 6 Jan 1555 at Rotherfield
- George Nynne *alias* Barber, b. c1558, bur. 11 Apr 1627 at Rotherfield
- +Elizabeth (--?--), b. c1560, m. c1584, bur. 31 Oct 1638 at Rotherfield
- Thomas Nynne *alias* Barber, bap. 1 Jan 1585 at Rotherfield, bur. 21 May 1649 at Rotherfield
- Mary Nynne *alias* Barber, bap. 16 Mar 1588/89 at Rotherfield, bur. an infant(?)
- Frances Nynne *alias* Barber, bap. 16 Mar 1588/89 at Rotherfield, bur. 22 Sep 1648 at Rotherfield
- Mary Nynne *alias* Barber, bap. 18 Apr 1591 at Rotherfield, bur. 1 Sep 1594 at Rotherfield
- Elizabeth Nynne *alias* Barber, bap. 15 Dec 1594 at Rotherfield
- John Nynne *alias* Barber, bap. 13 Feb 1602 at Rotherfield
- Mary Nynne *alias* Barber, bap. 29 Mar 1598 at Rotherfield, bur. 14 Dec 1633 at Rotherfield
- Mary Nynne *alias* Barber, bap. 5 Jun 1562 at Rotherfield
- William Nynne *alias* Barber, b. c1570, bur. 30 Jul 1629 at Rotherfield
- John Nynne *alias* Barber



John Nynne *alias* Barber was born circa 1530. He married Alice Farmer, daughter of Adam and Alice Farmer on 8 April 1554 at Rotherfield, Sussex, recorded as: *John Nen married Alis Farmer*. Farmer/Fermor is an old Rotherfield name with a long history in the parish.<sup>41</sup>

There is no record of Alice's baptism as it would have been before 1538 when church records began. However, she is probably the daughter of Adam and Alice Farmer who were identified from their burials at Rotherfield: Adam Fermor [*sic*], "*the elder*", buried 24 January 1547 and Alice Farmor [*sic*], "*widow of Adam*", buried on 10 May 1551.

Further information about the Farmer family is found in John Nynne *alias* Barber's will of 1589 where he appointed Adam Farmer, "*son of John Farmer deceased*", as an overseer. Adam would almost certainly have been related to Alice and it is likely that his father John is her brother as Adam was baptised in 1548 just six years before Alice married John Nynne. The manorial court held on 22 Oct. 1 Eliz [1559] records the death of John Farmer and the admission of his eight year old son Adam as heir and consequently Adam probably grew up quite

41 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 465).

close to his Aunt Alice and the Nynne alias Barber family.<sup>42, 43</sup>

There is an interesting entry on the inside back cover of the Rotherfield churchwarden accounts book (undated but a comparison of the handwriting with other entries in the book by ESRO archivist Christopher Whittick dates it at 1550-1560):<sup>44, 45</sup>

Be it known by thys present that I John nynde otherwise called barber of the parishe of Retherfyld have reseived [received] of the parish aforesaid 3 pounds of good & lawfull English money for the keeping of a child & have made promis to the parish to keep her honestly & to discharge the parish of the said child for ever.

John Nynne has been paid £3 to take responsibility for the girl, either as an adoption or as a servant, and thus discharge the parish of any obligation for her. There may be a connection to the fact that John and Alice's first child George was buried in 1555, and so she may have been taken in to assist or comfort Alice.

John and Alice also lived during the reign of "Bloody Queen Mary" (1553-1558). Three Rotherfield citizens were burnt at the stake in Lewes for their Protestant beliefs (Alexander Hosmer and Ann Ashdowne, burnt about 22 June 1557, and later John Ashdowne). In 1556 the rector of Rotherfield, William Collyer was deprived of his living and although a new rector, John Baxter, was appointed there are no entries in the church registers from 1555 until 1558 when Queen Mary died. Norman Peachell, an 11xgreat grandson of John Filknisch (Fyltnesse/Filtness), churchwarden with John Barber in 1532, writes that John Filknisch's son Edward was "taken for heresy in the days of Bloody Mary but somehow got away with it". Pullein states that Edward and two others were taken in 1556 but managed to flee and escape before reaching Lewes, eventually returning to Rotherfield where Edward is mentioned in manorial court records of 10 March 1557/58. It was a dangerous time in Rotherfield and would have affected everyone in the village.<sup>46</sup>

In the manorial court held on 11 May, 1 Eliz. [i.e. the first year of Elizabeth's reign, meaning 1559], John Nynde was elected a headman. On 17 October in

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42 Will of John Nynne als Barber of Rotherfield, 10 Apr 1589, pr. Lewes, 25 May 1591 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/8/423A).

43 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1557-1560, Vol. 2 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/2) p. 76 (p. 38 of PDF).

44 Churchwardens account book of the parish of Rotherfield, Sussex, 1510-1675 (ESRO: PAR 465/10/3/1) p. 144.

45 Churchwardens account book of the parish of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1510-1675, handwritten transcript by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/8) p. 144.

46 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) Chap XXIII "The Marian Persecution in Rotherfield."



the same year he is listed as one of three “*constables of this hundred*” and also headman of Southborough, and his presentations to the court refer to him as the “*headman there with his ten*” [men].<sup>47</sup>

Pullein mentions that the Rotherfield manor was divided into three tithings: Northborough, Southborough and Frant, with a headman over each. According to the Middle English Dictionary, the tithing was “an English system of collective surety within a territorial unit by which a group of ten freemen or villagers combined to give security for each other to keep the peace and to guarantee payment of fines or fees”. In practice, the number of villagers in a tithing would vary according to the situation and could be more or less than ten. The word “borgh” is another word meaning a tithing, hence the name Northborgh, Southborgh, etc., or Northborough and Southborough.

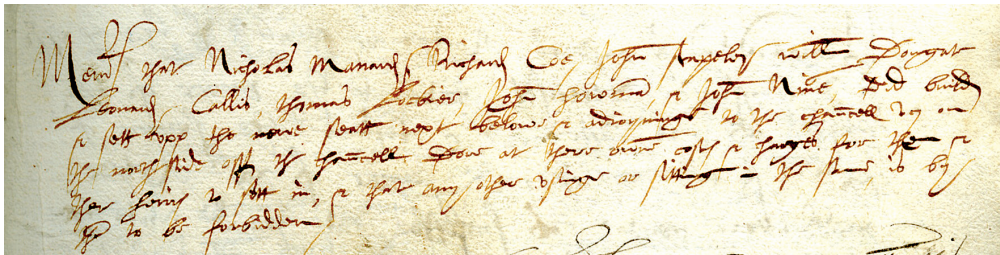
A headman would attend the Rotherfield court with his tithing (nominally ten men hence “with his ten”) and they were responsible for keeping the peace in their area. Southborough was evidently the most important for in it lay the village and the church where so much business was transacted.<sup>48</sup>

Although having various meanings, by the early 16th century the term headman (also called headborgh or headborough) described a parish law-enforcement officer subordinate to constable. In the court rolls they are listed immediately under the constables for the hundred (a hundred being an administrative area comprising a number of parishes – originally an area supporting a hundred families, or ten tithings). Their responsibilities can be seen by the various items that John Nynne “*with his ten*” presented to the court, all requiring judgements and fines to be dispensed to those responsible. Upkeep of roads, hedges, ditches and property are frequent topics, although occasional disputes leading to damage or violence are also presented. The phrase “*John Nynne and his ten*” also highlights an interesting aspect concerning the evolution of the jury system. In earlier times, a defendant could establish his innocence by taking an oath and getting a required number of persons, typically twelve, to swear they believed the defendant’s oath (called compurgation). This later became a group of people from the community (e.g. John Nynne and his ten) who knew the parties and the facts at issue and who could swear as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. This appears to be how the court operated in Rotherfield at this time.

In the manorial court held 29 April, 2 Eliz. [1560] John Nynne is again listed as headborough (headman/headborgh) for Southborough. At the end of his presentation to the court, two men from within his ten were nominated for the position of headborough and one was appointed, indicating that John had completed his period of service.

<sup>47</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1557-1560, Vol. 2 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/2) pp. 17,19 (pp. 9 &10 of PDF).

<sup>48</sup> Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) pp. 48,49.



**Fig. 13** Entry from the churchwardens' account book 1572 regarding the building of a church seat for John Ninne et al. *ESRO*

Manorial records for the earlier Queen Mary's reign do exist for 1557 and 1558 but there is no mention of John Nynne as having any official positions or involvement which was probably wise given there was so much upheaval in the parish with regard to convictions for heresy.<sup>49</sup>

On the 22 March 1572, Robert Rivers and John Ninne alias Barber were made churchwardens of Rotherfield St Denys for that year.<sup>50</sup> The churchwardens' accounts record the building of a new seat in the church (Fig. 13):<sup>51, 52</sup>

Mem. that Nicholas Manard, Richard Coe, John Stapely, William Dongate, Leonard Callis, Thomas Lockier, John Howman and John Ninne did build and sett upp the newe seatt next belowe and adjoyninge to the chauncell viz: on the north side off the chauncell Door at their own costs and charges for them and their heires to sett in, and that any other usinge or setting in the same is by them to be forbidden.

The paying for seats to be built and re-built in the church for the exclusive use by the owners and their heirs, and the subsequent buying and selling of these seats, was a characteristic of the church for about one hundred and sixty years after seats were first introduced in 1532. This particular seat may be the one that was later sold in 1679 "*that formerly did belong to Thomas Barbour*".<sup>53</sup>

On the 9th June 1574, John Nynne was a juror in a coroners' inquest held at Rotherfield. The inquest concerned a person, John Buckeleyne, who had drowned himself. On the 8th August 1582, John Nynne was again a juror at a coroners' inquest concerning the killing of John Westnet by poachers.<sup>54, 55</sup>

49 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1557-1560, Vol. 2 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/2), pp. 91,92 (pp. 49-51 of PDF)

50 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 223.

51 Churchwardens account book of the parish of Rotherfield, 1510-1675 (ESRO: PAR 465/10/3/1).

52 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO), p. 247.

53 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO), pp. 252,253.

54 R F Hunnisett, *Sussex Coroners' Inquests 1558-1603*, PRO Publications (1996), Inquest No 127, p. 28.

55 R F Hunnisett, *Sussex Coroners' Inquests 1558-1603*, PRO Publications (1996), Inquest No 285, p. 64.



John's service to the parish as a headborough, a churchwarden and as a juror at coronial inquests indicates that he was a respected member of the community.

The earliest evidence of the Barber *alias* Nynnes possessing the property called Drapers occurs in John's lifetime. Drapers was 22½ acres of land in the High Cross area just outside Rotherfield village. Catherine Pullein's notebooks record extracts from an undated quit rental which she states is "proved by me to be before Feb. 1580" and which records:<sup>56</sup>

John Nynn. For 12 acres of freland [freehold land] called Drapers lying between scottyll croch and fathermans. For 10 1/2 acres (ditto).

This is evidence of John Nynn owning the property at least as early as 1580.

There are also a number of property transactions in the manorial court rolls that involve John Nynne and the Farmer family. At the manorial court of 2 May 1587:<sup>57, 58</sup>

Adam Farmer out of Court, viz. Ap. 11 by John Nynne *alias* Barber deputy of Isaac Alchorne, bedell, in presence of John Staple, Nic. Coe & George Farmer, surrenders 1 messuage 1 barn & 1 garden containing 1/2 acre at Town hyll in R. [Rotherfield] to use of Margt Farmer his wife.

This would appear to concern the death of Adam Farmer, a weaver, who was buried 18 April 1587. Also, at the manorial court held on 2 August 1587:<sup>59</sup>

Thomas Farmer at Marke [Mark Cross] surrenders 1 messuage, 1 barn, 1 garden, 1 piece of land containing 3 acres on furling of Frith in R.[Rotherfield]. To use of John Nynne *alias* Barber.

This same property is then mentioned again on 1 April 1588:<sup>60</sup>

John Nynne *alias* Barber prays to be admitted to 1 messuage 1 barn 1 garden & 1 parcel adjacent to said messuage at Mark crosse [Mark Cross] containing 3 acres on f. [furling] of Fryth in R. [Rotherfield] which Thos Farmer at the court held on 2 Augt last surrendered to use of said John. Comes John N. *alias* B & surrenders above to use of Thos Farmer & his heirs.

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56 Private notebook of Catherine Pullein (Sussex Archaeological Society's Barbican Library, Lewes) from the box file marked "Pullein" in the Working Papers Room, p. 108.

57 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1631 (ESRO: ACC 2953/86).

58 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3), pp. 5a-6 (pp. 5&7/106 of the PDF - pp. 6&7 are out of order).

59 Ibid. pp. 14a (p. 11/106 of the PDF).

60 Ibid. pp. 34 (p. 22/106 of the PDF).

It is not clear why these two transactions occurred but they may be a further indication of the closeness of the relationship between the Farmers and the Barber alias Nynnes. Immediately following these transactions Thomas and Margaret Farmer nominate their daughter Gertrude Savage, wife of William Savage, as their heir so the transactions may have something to do with inheritance or even a marriage settlement for Gertrude. The families of John Barber and William Savage are linked again in the will of Henry Aderoll alias Skynner in 1612 (documented in a later section) which names both families' children as beneficiaries.

John Nynne alias Barber was buried on 15 May 1591 at Rotherfield, Sussex.<sup>61</sup> He left a will made on 10 April 1589 at Rotherfield, Sussex (Fig. 14):<sup>62</sup>

**John Barber als Nynne of Retherfield**, Sussex, my body to be buried in the churchyard of Retherfield. I will to **Alice Barber my wife** the house wherein I now dwell together with the barn, outhouses, orchard, garden and the little croft thereunto adjoining for life and also to her all the household stuff within the said house together with half the corn in the barn and half the corn on the ground which I the said **John** or **George my son** have or hath in occupying for me. I will to **William my son** £10 to be paid to him within two years next after my decease. [crossed out: *Item: I give unto Mary my daughter £20, £10 whereof to be paid unto the said Mary within four years next after my decease & the other £10 to be paid to the said Mary within four years next after the time of payment of her said first £10.*] I will to **my son John** £10 to be paid to him 6 years after my decease. My will and meaning is that if any of my aforesaid sons or **Mary my daughter** die before the time of payment, not being married, then his, her or their part shall remain to them, him or her who survives. My will is that **my sister Margaret** shall have a sufficient dwelling in my house with my wife for life. I will to **George my eldest son**, who I make the sole executor of this my last will and testament, the residue of all my goods and chattels and of the execution hereof I make **Adam Farmer, son to John Farmer**, deceased, and **Thomas Barber**, my brother, overseers.

John Barber's sign.

Witnesses: John Wickham, John Middleton.

Probate 25 May 1591 to **George**, the son and executor named. **William Barber als Nynne** minor.

*Abstract by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2010*

During John's lifetime there were other Nynne alias Barbers in the nearby parish of Ticehurst. The earliest reference is a baptism on 25 August 1577 of Thomas

61 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 465).

62 Will of John Nynne als Barber of Rotherfield, 10 Apr 1589, pr. Lewes, 25 May 1591 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/8/423A).

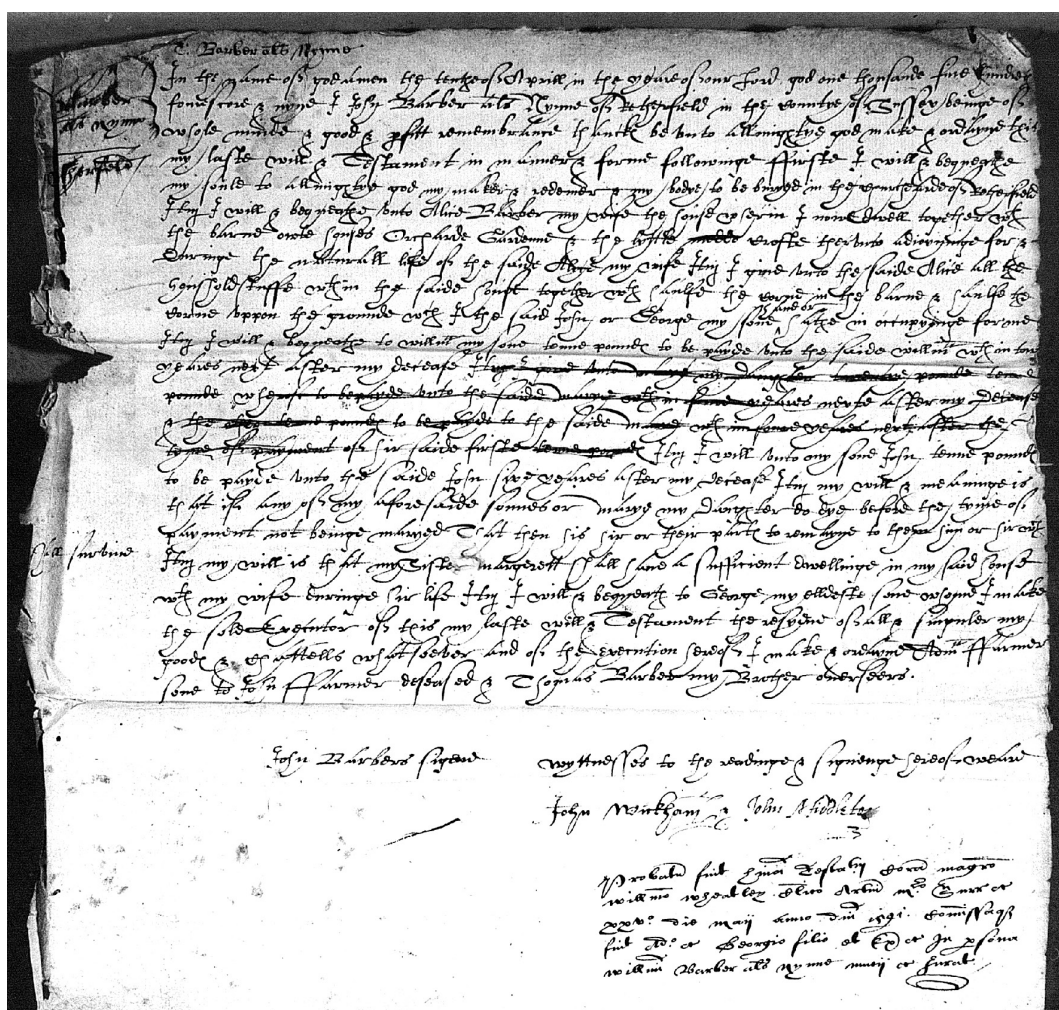


Fig. 14 The will of John Barber alias Nynne, made on 10 April 1589. Note the crossed-out section in the middle which was the bequest to his daughter Mary. Perhaps she died or married after the will was made? ESRO

son of Richard Nynne als Barbor.<sup>63</sup> Given the rarity of the name it is likely that Richard is related to John, possibly a brother or son. If Richard was born c1555 then his baptism may never have been recorded as there are gaps in the church records at Rotherfield during the reign of Queen Mary. Alternatively, he may have been born before 1538 when the recording of baptisms first began.

Richard was obviously a respected member of the community in Ticehurst as he appears as a juror in a coroners' inquest on 3 October 1584 at Etchingham where

<sup>63</sup> Transcript of the Parish Register of Ticehurst, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 492).

the case concerned John Sovage of Ticehurst who had hanged himself.<sup>64</sup>

Richard was buried in Ticehurst on 20 April 1603 as Richard Nynn als Barber.<sup>65</sup>  
The administration of Richard's estate was granted to his wife.<sup>66</sup>

5 May 1603 – admon of the goods of Richard Nyn late of Tiseherst, deceased, granted to Johanne, his relict, in the person of Robert Oteingham, notary public and procurator. Bonds William Nyn of Tiseherst, 'paylemaker', and Christopher Fowle of the same parish, husbandman, in £30. Inventory examined, value £15 15s 2d.

*Abstract by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2010*

There are baptisms for two of Richard's sons in the Ticehurst registers: Thomas (25 August 1577) and John (11 October 1584). Both were buried in 1584. The above grant of administration suggests that there is at least one surviving son, William, whose baptism has not been found. The burial entry for Richard's wife Joan on 24 May 1620 supports this by stating that she is "*mother of William*". There are also burials in Ticehurst of Silvester Barber alias Nynn on 20 November 1608 and Richard Barber alias Nynn on 19 March 1610 who could also be children of Richard and Joan.

Their son William married Elizabeth Fuller at Ticehurst on 21 August 1609 and the Ticehurst parish registers record the following baptisms of William's children: Susan (bap. 1611, bur. 1611), Ann (bap. 1615), Richard (bap. 1622, bur. 1631). The entry in the burial register for Richard in 1631 states that he is the son of William Barber alias Nynn and this is the last reference to the Nynn surname in Ticehurst. There is also a marriage in Ticehurst on 4 February 1638/39 of a Thomas Barber and Joan Primer and this Thomas is another son of William and Elizabeth (baptised at Burwash on 15 April 1610, "*son of William Barber of Tishurst*"). William was buried in Ticehurst on 13 January 1625 and the Barber surname does carry through the Ticehurst parish registers into the 1700's.

Prior to the earliest Richard, the only Barber in Ticehurst is a Jhon [John] Barber, gent, and his wife Elizabeth who first get mentioned with the baptism of their son Wyllm [William] on 30 August 1562. Wyllm and Elizabeth are both buried in 1562. There are some Sussex Archaeological Society deeds relating to this family and a brief inspection indicated that no males survived, that the name Nynne was never mentioned, that there were a number of daughters, and that a daughter Frances Barber was the main beneficiary.

64 R F Hunnisett, *Sussex Coroners' Inquests 1558-1603*, PRO Publications, (1996) Inquest No 311, p. 70.

65 Transcript of the Parish Register of Ticehurst, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 492).

66 Grant of administration, Richard Nyn of Ticehurst, granted Lewes, 5 May 1603 (ESRO: PBT/1/3/3/17F).

## George Nynne *alias* Barber c1558-1627 & Elizabeth c1560-1638

- George Nynne alias Barber**, b. c1558, bur. 11 Apr 1627 at Rotherfield, Sussex  
+**Elizabeth (Godsell?)**, b. c1560, m. c1584, bur. 31 Oct 1638 at Rotherfield
- **Thomas Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 1 Jan 1585 at Rotherfield, bur. 21 May 1649 at Rotherfield
    - +**Anne Latter**, m. 7 Mar 1639 at Frant, bap. 11 Dec 1608 at Rotherfield
    - **Thomas Barber alias Nynne**, bap. 3 May 1640 at Rotherfield, bur. 1 Nov 1683 at Tonbridge, Kent
    - **Elizabeth Barber alias Nynne**, bap. 11 Sep 1642 at Rotherfield
    - **Anne Barber alias Nynne**, bap. 16 Feb 1644/45 at Rotherfield
  - **Mary Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 16 Mar 1588/89 at Rotherfield, bur. an infant(?)
  - **Frances Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 16 Mar 1588/89 at Rotherfield, bur. 22 Sep 1648 at Rotherfield
    - +**Abednego Breade**, m. 11 Mar 1640/41 at Rotherfield
  - **Mary Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 18 Apr 1591 at Rotherfield, bur. 1 Sep 1594 at Rotherfield
  - **Elizabeth Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 15 Dec 1594 at Rotherfield
    - +**William Bowden**, m. 26 May 1622 at Horsmonden, Kent, bur. 20 Dec 1645 at Rotherfield
      - **Mary Bowden**, bap. 20 Apr 1623 at Ticehurst, bur. 25 Feb 1625 at Ticehurst
      - **Elizabeth Bowden**, b. c1627, bur. 30 Apr 1630 at Ticehurst
      - **William Bowden**, bap. 13 Sep 1629 at Ticehurst
      - **Jane Bowden**, bap. 29 Apr 1632 at Ticehurst
      - **Frances Bowden**, bap. 21 Jun 1635 at Ticehurst, bur. 3 Aug 1635 at Ticehurst
      - **John Bowden**, bap. 31 Jul 1636 at Rotherfield, bur. 16 Oct 1637 at Rotherfield
  - **John Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 13 Feb 1602 at Rotherfield
    - +**Mary (--?--)**, m. c1646, bur. 20 Jun 1662 at Frant
      - **Elizabeth Barber**, bap. 29 Dec 1647 at Rotherfield
      - **William Barber**, bap. 23 Sep 1649 at Rotherfield
      - **John Barber**, bap. 13 Apr 1651 at Rotherfield
      - **Mary Barber**, bap. 4 Jan 1654 at Rotherfield
      - **Richard Barber**, bap. 4 Mar 1659 at Rotherfield
    - +**Elizabeth Maynard**, m. 10 Sep 1663 at Rotherfield
  - **Mary Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 29 Mar 1598 at Rotherfield, bur. 14 Dec 1633 at Rotherfield







**Fig. 15** George Barber's mark.  
ESRO

George Nynne alias Barber was baptised circa 1558. He married Elizabeth and it is possible that their marriage was at Hadlow in Kent where on 2 December 1582 George Barber married Elizabeth Godsell (who may be the Elizabeth Godsell/Gutsold/Gutsall baptised 21 December 1561 at Brenchley in Kent, daughter of Richard Gutsold/Gutsall).<sup>67</sup> There is circumstantial evidence to support this marriage being the correct one. Their daughter, Elizabeth married William Bowden in 1622 in Horsmonden, Kent which is a village next to Brenchley i.e. in the area where her mother may have been born. In addition there are many

Godsell/Gudsell/Gotsole/Gutsall baptisms in Frant and Ticehurst from 1605 onwards. If this is correct, it highlights that they used the surname Barber outside of Rotherfield, and not Nynne, which could indicate that Barber was their real surname.

At the manorial court of 2 May 1587, George Nynne alias Barber is listed as one of the "*sureties*" and is "*for south borgh sworn*" (south borgh is also known as Southborough or south township). The court records go on to say:<sup>68</sup>

George Nynne, surety, presents that John Butcher junior & Ralph Barre living in the south township have (illegible) to the hurt of the Queen's highway by the fault of Abraham Butcher, & have a day given to scour, under pain of 3s 4d.

This is a good example of the responsibilities of the headborough where they were appointed by the manorial court and held responsible for the good behaviour of a group of people (for the south township in George's case). They brought matters to the court for judgement, which in the above case resulted in an order to scour the road or be fined 3s 4d. The position was held for a period of time and then someone else in the area was appointed. This method of keeping law and order goes back to early Saxon times.

Following the burial of his father on 15 May 1591, the manorial court of 23 September 1591 records:<sup>69, 70</sup>

67 Webpage: *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org/>), source film number 992517.

68 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3), p. 1.

69 Private notebook of Catherine Pullein c1925 (Sussex Archaeological Society's Barbican Library, Lewes) from the box file marked "Pullein" in the Working Papers Room, p. 108.

70 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3), p. 80a (p. 58/106 in PDF).



Comes George Nynne (makes homage that he?) holds of the lord certain lands called Drapers containing 22 1/2 ac. by rent of 22 1/2d, of which John Nynne his father died seised [possessed].

Comes George Nynne & prays 1 messuage with garden on R. hyll [Rotherfield Hill] containing 1 rod & 1 barn formerly called Bennetts with a road to the said messuage & barn & a garden containing 1 rod called Bacheland near the said barn & a parcel of meadow containing 1/2 ac. & 1 kitchen formerly Alice Adowne's & 1 garden formerly Adam Farmer's of which John N. his father died siesed.

These entries are recording the transfer of the two properties called Bonnetts/Bennetts and Drapers to George subsequent to the death of his father. The first is more a notification to the lord of the manor (to whom George will have to pay a rent), as Drapers is held freehold and its transfer or inheritance is not subject to the manorial court. However Bonnetts is held copyhold and the second entry is part of the actual transfer to George as heir.

On the 26th September 1592, George Barber is recorded as being a juror in a coroners' inquest at Rotherfield. The case concerned a spinster, Agnes Hosmere, who had hanged herself.<sup>71</sup>

A survey of the manor of Rotherfield was conducted in 1597 and a copy of the map produced still survives and is kept by the East Sussex Record Office. Although not named, the Drapers property is clearly shown with "*Georg Barbar*" written on the map as the owner (Figs. 16, 17). We know this is Drapers as it is mentioned in the Thomas Barber of Tonbridge will of 1683 and the location on the map matches the description of "*Draper's land*" in Catherine Pullein's book. According to the map, the property is 27 acres 0 roods and 10 perches. On the lease of 1662, the property is stated as being 22 acres. It is not known when the Drapers property came into the Nynne alias Barber family but it was at least before 1580. The previous owner appears to have been Thomas Morley, as the yearly rents of Rotherfield Church for 1509 record "*Thomas Morley for Drapers on Mich. ijd*" (Mich. meaning Michaelmas, 29 September, when the payment ijd [2d] was due) indicating it was held by him at that time.<sup>72, 73</sup>

On 22 May 1603, George Barber or Nynne was appointed a churchwarden at Rotherfield St Denys. This was the same year that a new bell was purchased for the church and cast on the bell is the inscription: "*Georg Barber, Edmund Knell, Wardens 1603*". The bell survives today and is the fifth bell in a peal of eight (see Figs. 18-21).<sup>74</sup>

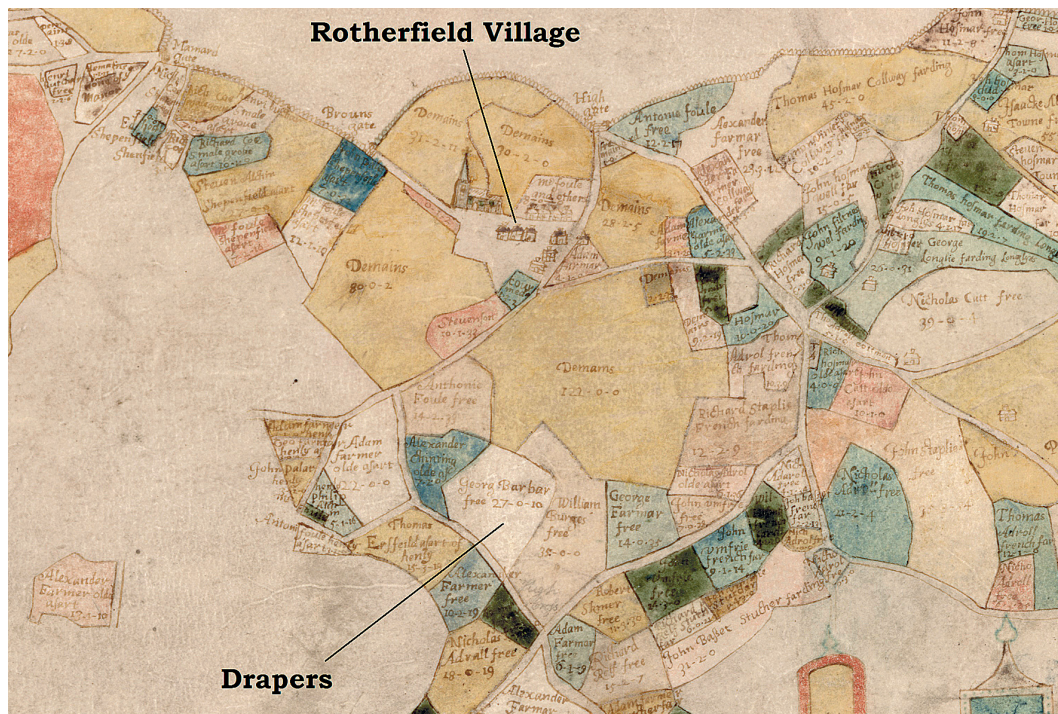
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71 R F Hunnisett, *Sussex Coroners' Inquests 1558-1603*, PRO Publications, (1996) Inquest No 443, p. 109.

72 Survey (map) of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1597 (ESRO: ACC 363/111).

73 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) pp. 235, 321.

74 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) pp. 107, 224.



**Fig. 16** The 1597 survey of the manor of Rotherfield showing Georg Barbar's [sic] property called Drapers. *ESRO: ACC/0363/111*

An entry in the churchwardens' accounts dated 22 December 1603 records the sale of an old bell, probably the one that was replaced by the new bell of 1603:<sup>75, 76</sup>

Md [Made] the day and yere above, written George Nynne and Edmund Knell, churchwardens, have sould unto Anthony ffowle of Retherfeild, gentleman, a littell Bell weying six and ffifty pound and heved received of the sayd Anthony for the same bell 28s. And this was recorded by the said Churchwardens in the presence of us: George Nynne his mark, Edmund Knell his mark, John Hosmer, clark there.

This document has George's mark, written by his own hand, and although it probably indicates that he could not write it has clearly been written with a confident hand. (Fig. 22).

At the manorial court of 4th April 1605, the list of people comprising the homage (the tenants of the manor assembled in the court) ends with "*George Nynne alias Barber, searcher of raw tanned leather is sworn*", giving some insight into his occupation. In this context a searcher was a representative of a certain craft or

<sup>75</sup> Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) pp. 241,242.

<sup>76</sup> Churchwardens account book of the parish of Rotherfield, Sussex, 1510-1675 (ESRO: PAR 465/10/3/1) p. 56.





Fig. 17 Magnified area of the 1597 map showing Georg Barbar's [*sic*] property. The road in front of the property is now called High Cross (note that someone has written in pencil on the map in old script "High Cross"). ESRO: ACC/0363/111

guild whose role was to police the craft on behalf of the civic authorities and in the interests of the guild. For the leather industry there was a statute concerning the "*true and just tanning, currying and working of leather*" requiring mayors, bailiffs or other head officers in market towns to appoint and swear yearly two or more persons "*of the most honest and skilful men*" to search and apply a seal to leather that was of acceptable quality and to seize any leather or leather goods that had not been sufficiently tanned or curried. The appointment as a searcher was, in London at least, for a maximum of two years.<sup>77, 78</sup>

George must have had a background in the leather industry, possibly as a tanner or currier, both specialist crafts. A tanner treats skins of animals to produce leather, and a currier applies techniques of dressing, finishing and colouring to the tanned hide to make it strong, flexible and waterproof. George could also have been a fellmonger – a dealer in skins and hides. In Roland Harris' *Rotherfield Historic Character Assessment Report, June 2008* he includes a section on economic history

77 Catherine Pulein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 281.

78 Danby Pickering, *The Statutes at Large, Vol VII*, (1763), Cambridge. p. 106 (1 Jacobi [1604], CAP. XXII).



**Fig. 18** The Barber Bell, Rotherfield 1603.



**Fig. 19 and 20** The Barber Bell showing inscription.

**Fig. 21** The Barber Bell showing the date 1603.

*All photos: Geoffrey Barber, June 2012*

and states: “There are references to tanning, a currier, a saddler and glove makers in the period c1600-50. In 1652 tanners from Rotherfield sold their goods at the Lewes leather market”.<sup>79</sup>

On 6 July 1612, Henry Aderoll alias Skynner made a will in which George Nynne alias Barber was the executor and all the Nynne alias Barber children named as beneficiaries along with the children of William Savage. There is no indication of the relationship between Henry Aderoll and the Barber or Savage family. However, manorial records show that William Savage’s wife is Gertrude (nee Farmer, bap. 20 March 1551/52 at Rotherfield, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Farmer) so there may have been a common family connection through the Farmers, as George’s mother Alice’s maiden name was Farmer also.<sup>80</sup> There are no records in Rotherfield for the Savage family although the surname does appear in nearby Wadhurst and Ticehurst (e.g. Dorothy dau. William Savage

<sup>79</sup> Roland B Harris, *Rotherfield Historical Character Assessment Report 2008 (Sussex Extensive Urban Survey Project)*, Wealden District Council, Sussex, (June 2008) (ESRO) p. 13.

<sup>80</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pulein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3), p. 35 (PDF document p. 22/106).



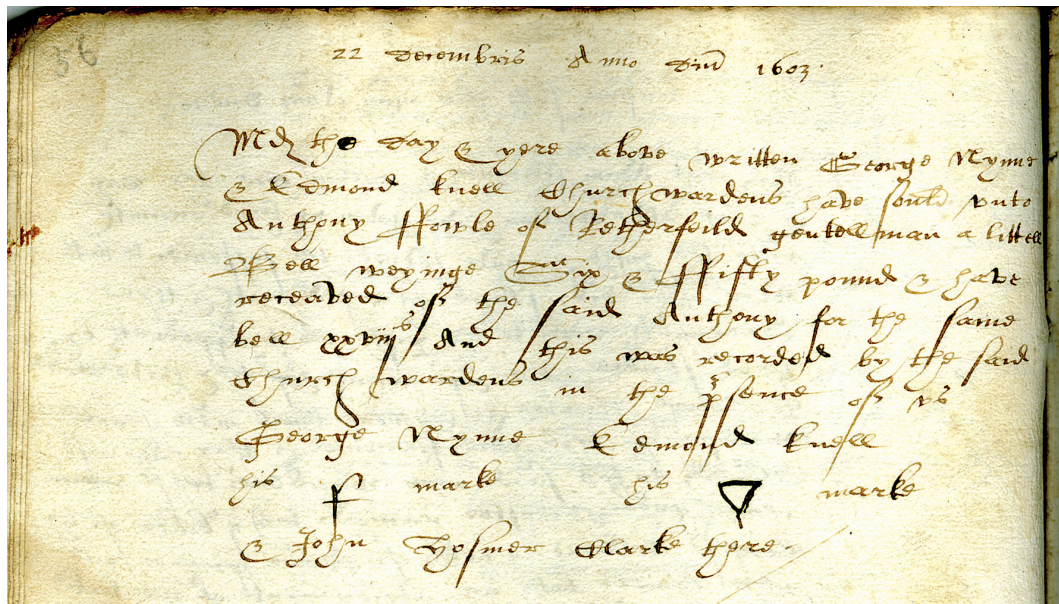


Fig. 22 Entry from the churchwardens' account book 1603 regarding the sale of a bell (with George Nynne's mark on the left). ESRO

buried at Wadhurst in 1619). The 1597 map of the survey of the manor of Rotherfield shows properties close to George Barber held by a Nicholas Adroll, Thomas Adroll and also a Robert Skinner but they are not mentioned in Henry's will. The will reads:<sup>81</sup>

In the name of God Amen the vith day of July in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred and twelve I **Henry Aderoll als Skynner of Retherfeild** in the county of Sussex being sicke in body but of good and perfect remembrance thanks be given to Allmightie God therefore doe make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and forme following that is to say ffirst and principally I will and bequeath my soule unto Allmightie God my mercifull maker, Saviour and Redeemer by whome and through whome I hope to have foregiveness of all my synnes and my body to the earth from whence it came and Decently to be buried where it shall please God. Item I will and bequeath unto **Nathaniel Savage (the sonne of William Savage, gent)** the some of ffyve pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid to him by my executor within one year next after my decease. Item I will and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Savage, Hester Savage and Thomas savage the children of the said William Savage** and to each and every of them three, Three pounds of like money a peece to be paid to them and every of them by my Executor within one yeare next after my decease. Item I will and bequeath unto **Thomas Nynne als barber, Ffrances**

81 Will of Henry Aderoll alias Skynner of Rotherfield, 6 Jul 1612, pr. Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 2 Nov 1613 (The National Archives, Kew, PROB 11/122/471).



**Nynne als barber, Elizabeth Nynne als Barber, Mary Nynne als Barber and to John Nynne als barber the children of George Nynne als Barber** and to each and every of them tenne shillings of like lawfull money a peece to be paid to them and every of them by my Executor within one yeare next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth the wife of the said George Nynne** one joyned chest. Item I will and bequeath unto **Mary the daughter of the said George Nynne** one other chest. All the rest of my goods and household stuff not before given and bequeathed, my debts first paid, my legacies discharged and funeral expenses p'formed I will and bequeath unto **George Nynne als Barber** whome I make my sole Executor of this my will. And I doe ordayne and make **William Nynne als Barber** to be my faithfull and trustie overseer. And I give to him iijs iiijd and his charges borne. These being witnesses **John Hosmer** and **William Chowne**. The marke of **Henry Aderoll als Skynner**.

*Transcribed by John Howes for Geoffrey Barber 2012. Probate granted 2 Nov 1613.*

George was buried on 11 April 1627 at Rotherfield, Sussex, aged about 68 years and recorded as “*George Barber als Nyne*”.<sup>82</sup> He left a will made on 18 January 1617 at Rotherfield and it is obvious that his main concern is the provision for his wife, Elizabeth:<sup>83</sup>

**George Nynne als Barber of Retherfeld**, Sussex, sick in body, my body to be decently buried when it shall please God. I will to Thomas my son my best ‘cobberd’ [cupboard], my long table frame and two forms belonging to it standing in my hall, my great joined chest, and my great watering vat and all my weaynes [wains], coortes [carts] and ploughs, yokes, ‘tyghtes’ and all my other husbandry tackle and tools. I will to **Elizabeth, my wife**, all the residue of my household stuff not before by me willed. My will is that my wife **Elizabeth** and her assigns shall have the chamber over the hall with a chimney in it and a little buttery chamber at the end of my said hall in my now dwelling house with free liberty to go and come to and from the said rooms in my said house during her life and also she, at the costs and charges of **Thomas my said son**, and his heirs, shall have sufficient fire and ‘flett’ [Old English - dwelling, floor, ground] in my said dwelling house for life, with frank and free liberty to bake and brew and to dress meat and drink and to do any other necessary business fit for housekeeping in my said messuage or dwelling house, with free liberty to have and take meet [suitable] and necessary water to do her or their businesses in or about the said messuage for life, with liberty to go and come to and from the same premises to do the same at her will and pleasure. I give to **Frances, my daughter**, £10 to be paid to her or her heirs or assigns within one year after my decease. I will to **Elizabeth, my daughter**, £10 to be paid

82 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 465).

83 Will of George Barber alias Nynne of Rotherfield, 18 Jan 1617, pr. Lewes, 26 May 1627 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/20/40A).

to her, her heirs or assigns within two years after my decease. I will to **Mary, my daughter**, £10 to be paid to her, her heirs or assigns within three years after my decease. I will that **my son Thomas**, his heirs or assigns, shall pay to **John my son** out of my freehold land lying in Retherfeld £10 within five years after my decease and if **my son Thomas** does not pay the same to **John** then it will be lawful for **John** to enter upon all my freehold land lands and into any part and parcel thereof and to distrain and to impound and keep in his custody until the said sum of £10 be fully paid and satisfied. The rest of my goods and chattels not before willed and bequeathed, my debts first paid, my legacies discharged and my funeral expenses performed, I will to **Elizabeth my wife** and to **Thomas my son** who I make my executors. I make **John Nynne als Barber, and William Nynne als Barber, my loving brothers**, my overseers in trust of this will. And to each of them 3s 4d apiece and their charges borne in and about my business.

Mark of George Nynne als Barber.

Witnesses: John Hosmer seni., Willm Barber alias Nynne, John Hosmer Jun. Probate 26 May 1627 on the oath of **Thomas Nynne als Barber**, the son, and one of the executors named, power reserved to **Elizabeth Nynne als Barber**, the relict of the deceased, the other executor named in the will.

*Abstract by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2010*

George's wife Elizabeth was buried eleven years later on 31 October 1638 at Rotherfield, Sussex. The entry in the parish register transcripts is simply: "*Buried ----- Barber (widow als Nyne)*".<sup>84</sup>

Elizabeth left a will made on 12 September 1637:<sup>85</sup>

**Elizabeth Nyne als Barber of Retherfeild**, Sussex, widow, sick in body, my body to be decently buried in the churchyard of the parish of Retherfeild when it shall please God. I give to **John Nyne als Barber**, my son, £10 to be paid to him within two years after my decease. I give to the said **John my son** half a dozen of pewter [*sic*], one pewter pott, two pairs of good hempen sheets, one feather bed that I lie upon, one bolster, one feather pillow, also one joined chest. I give to **Frances Nyne als Barber, my daughter**, one feather bed, one pair of fine sheets and one pair of coarse sheets, one boarded chest, half a dozen of pewter, great and small, one brass kettle, one brass 'possnett' [stew pan or skillet]. I give to **Elizabeth Bowden, my daughter** my best gown, my flannel petticoat, my waistcoat that is at the tailor's a-making, two pewter platters. I give to **William Bowden, my nephew**, one pewter platter, one boarded chest standing at the feet of my bed. I give to **John Bowden, my nephew**, 10s of money. I give to **Jane Bowden, my niece**, one tablecloth, two napkins, one little box. I give to the

84 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 465).

85 Will of Elizabeth Nyne alias Barber of Rotherfield, 12 Sep 1637, pr. Lewes, 3 Dec 1638 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/25/189).

said John my son one barrel, one keeler [a wooden tub]. I give to the said Elizabeth Bowden my daughter one barrel and two napkins. I give to John my son two napkins. I give to Frances, my daughter, two napkins. All the rest of my goods not before by me willed and bequeathed, my debts first paid, my legacies discharged and my funeral expences performed, I give wholly to **Thomas Nynne als Barber, my son**, who I make my sole executor.

Mark of Elizabeth Nynne als Barber.

Witnesses: Adam Farmar, John Hosmer.

Probate 3 December 1638 on the oath of **Thomas Nynn als Barber**, the natural and legitimate son of the deceased and executor named.

*Abstract by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2010*

The items listed in these two wills give us a wonderful insight into the domestic life of this family. The Elizabethan age was a time of rising standards of living, with significant progress in the structure and layout of ordinary houses and also improvements in household furniture from rudimentary, functional pieces to items that were better quality, more comfortable and decorative. An understanding of the development of houses and household items at this time is required to put the information in these wills in context.

At the start of Elizabethan period (1558-1603) the majority of people lived in a single storey house which comprised two rooms:<sup>86</sup>

The **parlour or chamber** which was where the husband and wife slept. The parlour however had multiple uses being the best room in the house and was also used to entertain visitors.

The **hall** used for cooking and eating as well as being the room where other family members slept. It would have had an open ceiling with smoke from the fire drifting up to the rafters, usually escaping from a small hole in the gable end, and so is often referred to as an “open hall”.

Against the side of the house there may have been a lean-to used as a buttery (for brewing), pantry or larder. This could also have been a small room constructed inside the house by taking up some of the space in the hall for example.

Larger cottages may have had a third room, called a service room, where food was prepared. This is not necessarily the same as a kitchen which was often a separate building detached from the main house to reduce the fire risk. Some cottages also had separate barns.

Smoke was a problem in early houses, and smoke bays were introduced in some houses to isolate the smoke but still allow it to escape through the roof or gable

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<sup>86</sup> F.G. Emmison, *Elizabethan Life – Home, Work and Land*, Essex Record Office Publication No. 69 (1976).

end. This enabled the rest of the roof space area to be used for an upstairs room. Peter Harness, conservation officer in the London Borough of Bexley, wrote the following about smoke bay houses:<sup>87</sup>

Smoke bay houses first made their appearance at a time traditionally associated with the ‘Great Rebuilding’ around 1550. On the evolutionary scale, this type comes between the open hall of the Middle Ages and the brick chimney houses of the 17th century. The smoke bay was an attempt to confine the smoke from the fire within a narrow timber-framed bay screened with lath and plaster. The bay would have continued to the apex of the roof, and is today evidenced by heavy sooting on some remaining timbers, and on plastered panelling within. The use of the bay to heat the hall-kitchen would have presented a considerable fire risk, even though the inside was plastered to protect the timber framing.

Upstairs rooms were called *sollars* (or *solar* or *soller*) meaning loft (as opposed to a *seller* or *cellar* which is a storeroom most often on the ground floor and not underground as we would think today). The *sollar* was sometimes used for storage, but also as private living and sleeping quarters as they were separate from the noise and smells of the hall which everyone used.

The “Great Rebuilding” mentioned by Peter Harness refers to the period 1570-1640 where there was a revolution in housing design although the term is somewhat discredited now. Bricks started to be used in ordinary housing for the construction of fireplaces and the central hearth in the open hall was replaced by a single or double (back to back) fireplace which allowed the heating of both rooms. More importantly, the installation of chimneys facilitated greater development of upper chambers under the roof rafters and new houses began to be constructed as fully two storey houses. This new style of “closed” housing is essentially what we are familiar with today.<sup>88</sup>

George Barber’s will (1617) specifically gives his wife the use of “*the chamber over the hall with a chimney in it and a little buttery chamber at the end of my said hall*” indicating that they had a two story house with chimneys and an internal buttery chamber. This buttery would have been a room in which butts, barrels or bottles of alcoholic drink were stored and from which they were served into the hall.

More information about the house can be gleaned from the description of their property (called Bonnetts) in the manorial court rolls, as after George died in 1627 there is a record of his son Thomas being admitted to the property:<sup>89</sup>

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87 Webpage: *Institute of Historic Building Conservation* ([http://www.ihbc.org.uk/context\\_archive/16/smoke.htm](http://www.ihbc.org.uk/context_archive/16/smoke.htm)) “A Smoke-Bay House” by Peter Harness”. Accessed: 19 Apr 2014

88 Danae Tankard, *Houses of the Weald and Downland*, Carnegie Publishing, (2012) pp. 79,80.

89 Sussex Archaeological Society (ESRO: SAS AB 398).

11 Oct 1627: Steward: Tho. Houghton, gent. Admission of Tho Nynne als Barber, eldest son of Geo N. als B., on his father's death. Messuage & garden at Retherfield Hill, of 1 rod, & a barn called Bonnetts, with a Way from said messuage to the barn; Also a garden of 1 rod called Bacheland next to said barn; Also a parcel [of] meadow of 1/2 ac, a Kitchen (coquinam) once of Alice Adowne, & a garden once of Adam Farmer.

This indicates that they likely had a separate building which functioned as a kitchen. A separate barn is also mentioned. One is left with the impression that they had certainly kept up with the changing times and probably were considered to have had quite a comfortable house.

As an aside, the description of the Bonnetts/Bennetts property (with the “Way”, ½ acre meadow, garden of 1 rod, etc.) and its location on Rotherfield Hill (now



**Fig. 23** An example of a framed table.  
*All photos taken in Anne of Cleves House, Lewes by Geoffrey Barber, 2014*



**Fig. 24** A rather elaborate and high status cup-board. They were used to hold the cups, glasses and plate.



**Fig. 25** A simple boarded chest, which would have served for seating as well as storage.



**Fig. 26** A fine example of a “joined” chest with elaborate decoration.



Church Road), allows the location of the property to be identified. Using the 1842 tithe map we see that the property would have been at the location of the current Town Hill House, a Grade II listed property dating from the 18th century which is just across the road from the church (see Appendix II). It appears that George and Elizabeth's cottage has not survived, unless it has been incorporated in the newer house. In April 2014 the owner, Mrs P. Rice, was kind enough to show me the inside of the house. First impressions are that the back of the house looks older than the front which has had some modification in recent times including the removal of two chimneys which are clearly visible on c1910 postcards. An archaeological inspection, particularly in the roof space, is required to properly determine its age.

George's will also mentions specific items of furniture, in particular "*my best 'cobberd' [cupboard], my long table frame and two forms belonging to it standing in my hall*". We know from this that the hall was furnished with one or more cupboards and a refectory style table with two long benches (forms) confirming that the hall was used for meals. In the early 1500s a table would have been a board or plank of wood sitting on two trestles. George's will refers to the "long table frame", indicating that he had a rigid table with fixed ends joined by stretchers or rails. In Elizabethan times, tables with four or more legs joined by stretchers near the floor level became common. George's table would have been a valuable item, the centre piece for the house, particularly if it was the work of a joiner and decorated with some wood turning or carving. Examples of a framed table and cupboard from this era are shown in Figs. 23 and 24.

George also mentions "*my great joined chest*" which emphasises the difference between joiner and carpenter made furniture which became significant at this time. Most Elizabethan homes were sparsely furnished with crude and utilitarian items produced by a carpenter (or, in the case of chests, produced by a carpenter and a blacksmith). However, during this period the craft of the joiner started to come to the fore, making furniture using joints and producing superior and more ornamental pieces (see examples Figs. 25 and 26). We therefore find many wills where some furniture items are specifically identified as "joined" because of their value and status. Elizabeth Barber's will (1637) is typical and mentions a number of chests one of which is "joined" (the work of a joiner) and the others which are "boarded" (the work of a carpenter). It is important to note that chests were often just as important for their use as seating as well as storage, as a chair was a rare item in most households at the start of the 17th century and if there was one it was reserved for the head of the family (hence the origin of the word "chairman").

Elizabeth's will contains wonderful details about the household goods that were important to her, even to the extent of mentioning "*my waistcoat that is at the tailor's a-making*". Here is an inventory of those items:

### **Cooking and Eating**

A dozen pewter  
Three pewter platters  
One pewter pot  
One brass kettle [*note that brass meant bronze at this time*]  
One brass possnett [*a stew pan or skillet*]  
One tablecloth  
Eight napkins

### **Bedding**

Two feather beds  
One bolster  
One feather pillow  
Two pairs of good hempen sheets  
One pair of fine sheets  
One pair of coarse sheets

### **Clothing**

Best gown  
Flannel petticoat  
Waistcoat at the tailor's a-making

### **Chests**

One joined chest  
Two boarded chests [*one is at the foot of her bed*]

### **Other**

One little box [*possibly for jewellery and personal items*]  
Two barrels  
One keeler [*a broad, shallow wooden tub, possibly used for washing dishes*]

The will states that the remainder of her goods are to be given to her son, Thomas, so there may have been other items in addition to the above.

Pewter was used extensively for tableware in Europe from the Middle Ages until the 18th and 19th Centuries when it was replaced by mass production of pottery and porcelain items. Pewter used for tableware generally consisted of 85-99% tin, and the rest copper, producing a harder, shinier and more durable alloy than lower grade pewter which would also contain some lead. Pewter items were valuable and therefore mentioned in the will.

Many items of tableware were also made of wood but would not be included in a will because of their low value. Such wood items were also called "treenware" (treen platters, treen bowls, etc.) and would have been used on the table with the pewter items. Pottery was another common and low value item. Note that there is also no mention of knives as each person brought their own to the table and

forks did not become common in England until the 18th century. Household linen was valuable though and tablecloths, napkins and bed sheets are mentioned.

The feather beds were items of luxury as many people slept on straw pallets or rough mats. Elizabeth's unmarried daughter Frances may have been sleeping in the same room given that there were two beds and one was left to her in the will. The mention of hempen sheets is interesting. The early hemp industry produced ropes, canvas and hempen cloth, some of which could rival flaxen cloth (linen) in quality. The coarse sheets mentioned were probably more like a canvas and the fine sheets were possibly made of linen. There is no mention of blankets which she may have considered belonging more to the household rather than being one of her personal items and hence belonging to her son Thomas who had inherited the house some years ago via George's will.

Her items of clothing (best gown, waistcoat at the tailor's a-making) suggest that she looked after her appearance, and she probably wore these to church. The family had a strong connection to Rotherfield St Denys and even had a chair of their own inside the church built by George's father in 1572 (and later sold in 1679).<sup>90</sup> In addition, George had been a churchwarden as had his father and grandfather (who was also the church sexton in 1548) and was a regular attendee of the presentation of the churchwarden's accounts meetings up until 1622.

George's will also mentions some basic farming and husbandry equipment (wains, carts, ploughs, yokes), as well as his great watering vat (possibly for watering barley to make malt for brewing). These items together with the knowledge of the buttery, the outside kitchen and the barn serves to remind us that this was a self-supporting household that would have farmed, grown and stored its own food, baked bread, brewed beer, etc. Much of this would have been the responsibility of the women in the household and one can but admire the skills and hard work required to do this. Their eldest son Thomas did not marry until four months after Elizabeth's death suggesting she played a major role in the household. An unmarried son inheriting such a house/cottage would be very much in need of a woman to run it which may explain why Thomas, a 54 year old, was quick to marry a 30 year old widow after his mother died. These were times when love was not necessarily the main factor in a marriage! Also, three years after Elizabeth's death, Thomas's unmarried sister Frances, at age 52 years, was moved to marry the widower Abednego Breade on 11 March 1640/41 at Rotherfield. His brother John, at 44 years of age, followed suit and married Mary in about 1646!

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90 Catherine Pulein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) pp. 247,252,253.

## Thomas Nynne *alias* Barber 1585-1649 & Anne Latter 1608-c1675

**Thomas Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 1 Jan 1585 at Rotherfield, Sussex, bur. 21 May 1649 at Rotherfield

+**Anne Latter**, bap. 11 Dec 1608 at Rotherfield, m. 7 Mar 1639, at Frant, Sussex, d. c1677

— **Thomas Barber alias Nynne**, bap. 3 May 1640 at Rotherfield, bur. 1 Nov 1683 at Tonbridge, Kent

— +**Mary Rootes**, b. c1647, mlic. 11 Oct 1672 at Chevening, Kent bur. 4 May 1732 at Tonbridge

— **Richard Barber**, bap. c1673, bur. 2 Jun 1722 at Tonbridge

— **Thomas Barber**, bap. 12 May 1675 at Tonbridge, bur. 28 May 1749 at Tonbridge

— **Elizabeth Barber**, bap. 20 Jun 1677 at Tonbridge

— **Mary Barber**, bap. 5 May 1679 at Tonbridge

— **Elizabeth Barber alias Nynne**, bap. 11 Sep 1642 at Rotherfield

+**William Jeffery(?)**, m. c1660

— **Anne Barber alias Nynne**, bap. 16 Feb 1644/45 at Rotherfield



Thomas Nynne alias Barber was baptised on 1 January 1585 at Rotherfield, Sussex as “*Thomas Nynne son of George Nynne alias Barber*”.<sup>91</sup>

He inherited the family properties at the age of 42 years following the death of his father in 1627. We find this documented in the manorial court rolls:<sup>92, 93</sup>

24 Jul 1627: Steward: Tho Houghton, gent. Copy Admission of Tho Nynne als Barber, on death of his father Geo. Heriot: 1 Ox color red branded worth £4.10 which the lord has sold for that price. Unspecified land.

One of the important tasks of the manorial court was to record the death of tenants in the court books, the name of their heir, and the name and description of their lands. The heir was then “admitted” to the land. This entry also shows one of the customs of the manor whereby upon the death of a tenant, the lord of the manor shall have his best animal in the name of a heriot (a feudal due). We would call it a death tax today. The heriot arose from an old custom whereby all men were bound to make a return on death of the “hergeat”, or war gear (horse, harness, weapons), which the lord had originally supplied and it was therefore right that he should resume possession on the man’s death. However, this concept became corrupted over time and evolved into yet another means of taxing the people.<sup>94</sup>

91 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 465).

92 Sussex Archaeological Society, (ESRO: SAS AB 397).

93 Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1616-1631, Vol. 5 of handwritten translation by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/5), p. 102b (p. 44/136 in PDF).

94 H.S. Bennett, *Life on the English Manor 1150-1400*, Cambridge University Press, (1937) pp. 143,144.

There is a later entry for the cottage known as Bonnetts and associated land called Bachelands:<sup>95</sup>

11 Oct 1627: Steward: Tho. Houghton, gent. Admission of Tho Nynne als Barber, eldest son of Geo N. als B., on his father's death. Messuage & garden at Retherfield Hill, of 1 rod, & a barn called Bonnetts, with a Way from said messuage to the barn; Also a garden of 1 rod called Bacheland next to said barn; Also a parcel [of] meadow of 1/2 ac, a Kitchen (coquinam) once of Alice Adowne, & a garden once of Adam Farmer.

The Latin word “coquinam” is in the original document and means “pertaining to cooks/cooking”, which has been translated in this context to mean kitchen.

As a free tenant, Thomas had responsibilities to the manor. In 1628 he was a surety for Southborough and at various times between 1631 and 1633 served as one of the jury in the manorial court. The sworn jury decided on the fines payable for offenses, appointed the officers of the manor and heard the cases against miscreant tenants.<sup>96</sup> He is no longer mentioned in the court books after 1635 although he appears again as a witness in 1648.

On 14 May 1637, Thomas Barber *alias* Nynne was appointed a churchwarden at Rotherfield St Denys (Fig. 27).<sup>97, 98</sup>

Thomas's mother Elizabeth was buried on 31 October 1638 and four months later, on 26 February 1639, Thomas and the widow Anne Heath (nee Latter) obtained a marriage licence.<sup>99</sup> He was 54 years of age and Anne was aged 30 years. The marriage licence reads: “*Thomas Barber alias Nyn of Rotherfield, yeoman, & Anne Heath of same, widow, sureties: said T.B. alias N. and William Bowden of same, yeoman (Frant).*” They married on 7 March 1639 at Frant, Sussex. The church register simply states: “*Thomas Barber of Rotherfield & Anne Heath (widdow)*”.<sup>100</sup>

The witness William Bowden is a person of interest as the will of Elizabeth Nynne als Barber 1637 states her daughter's name as Elizabeth Bowden and so it is likely that William is her husband and therefore Thomas's brother-in-law. This is confirmation that this is the marriage of Thomas, son of George and Elizabeth Barber *alias* Nynne.

95 Sussex Archaeological Society, (ESRO: SAS AB 398).

96 Court Books of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1631-1753 (ESRO: ABE 7401).

97 Churchwardens account book of the parish of Rotherfield, Sussex, 1510-1675 (ESRO: PAR 465/10/3/1) p. 101.

98 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 225.

99 Edwin H W Dunkin ed., *Sussex Record Society Vol 1: Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences: Archdeaconsry of Lewes 1586-1643*, Sussex Record Society, (1901) (ESRO).

100 Transcript of the Parish Register of Frant, Sussex, England, 1544-1881 (ESRO: PAR 344).



101

Termino quarto die mensis Maii Anno dñi 1637

The arraump of John Watt & John Doe Churchwardens  
for the yeare last past above writton have given upp the  
arraump to the parishoners of the pish of Rotherfeld And they  
have received more then they have laid out the some of iiii s viij d  
wth they have paid over to Edward Hider & Thomas Nynne als  
Barber new Churchwardens for the yere followinge And  
they have leaft thes psonall trage: wist one Bible two  
Communion bookes, doctor ferrell's booke. An a bridgmont of  
the booke of Martens, one homilie booke, 4 Terisford booke  
A Communion Exp of siluer wth a Gouen, 3 flaggones,  
A Communion Gloath, a sunplishe, a Garpott on bradder, a  
A Gushon & Gloath for the Gullpott 7 pood of cadames  
in parchment, my Lord George's Couillo band paper  
of Jndentures, my Lord Gualty band wantinge & not delinial  
A booke of Articles, the Common forme, one band of Tenants  
one band of Althornes, one band of John Chamberlins, one  
band of John Emerys wantinge, 4 brasses, one Gappie  
of the Churchrist a booke of prayes in time of  
pntenes a booke of Names, one band of John Dignifrombe  
one band of Tobbs Jonsome

Present at this arraump  
Edward Robert Cynicall  
Thomas Watt  
Edward Hider  
Thomas Nynne

Fig. 27 Appointment of Edward Hider and Thomas Nynne als Barber as churchwardens in 1637. ESRO

Anne's previous husband, William Heath, had died in 1635 and at the time she married Thomas she had three young children: Edmond eight years, Elizabeth five years and Robert four years. It has proved difficult to trace these children, although the baptism of Thomas Heath on 27 January 1673 at Tonbridge, son of Robert Heath (mother not named), may show that at least Robert survived and followed his mother to Tonbridge. This may also be the Robert Heath who married Dorothy Latter (his mother Anne's maiden name) on 24 October 1668 in Horsmonden.<sup>101, 102</sup>

101 Will of William Heath of Rotherfield, 4 Aug 1635, pr. Archdeaconry Court at Lewes, 28 Apr 1636 (ESRO: A24/84).

102 Webpage: *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org/>), source film number 0845142, 0845143.

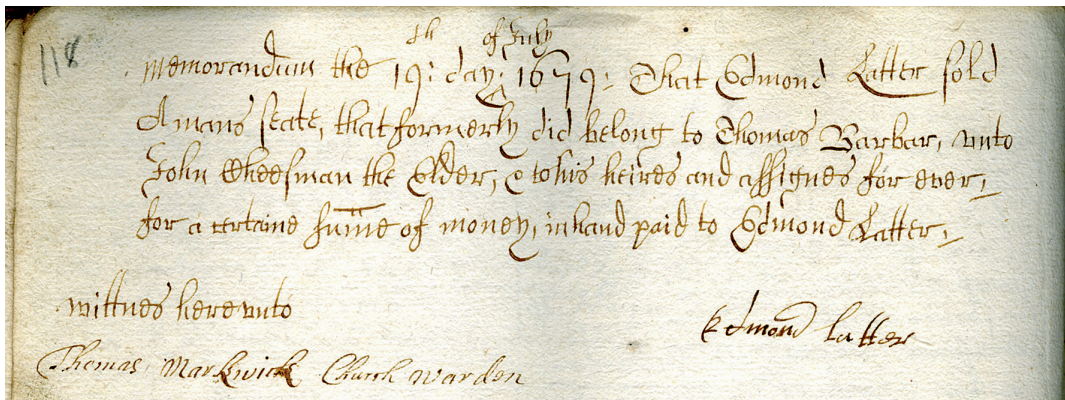


Fig. 28 Churchwardens' accounts book 1679 showing sale of a church seat previously belonging to "Thomas Barber". ESRO

The list of contributors to the "Relief of Irish Protestants" in 1642 show two Thomas Barbers in Rotherfield. The second Thomas Barber is most likely the Thomas baptised at Burwash on 15 April 1610 "*son of William Barber of Tisbury*" who married Johan (Joan) Primer at Ticehurst on 4 February 1638 and was buried in Rotherfield on 10 April 1663. His parents are William Barber and Elizabeth Fuller who were married in Ticehurst on 21 August 1609.<sup>103, 104</sup> William is a descendant of the Richard Nynne alias Barber of Ticehurst mentioned in a previous chapter.

Thomas Nynne alias Barber was buried on 21 May 1649 at Rotherfield, Sussex, aged 64 years.<sup>105</sup> Thirty years later, on 19 July 1679, the churchwardens' accounts note the sale of a seat in the church by Edmund Latter to John Cheesman the Elder, noting that the seat was previously owned by Thomas Barber [*sic*] (Fig. 28).<sup>106, 107</sup> Edmund would likely have obtained the seat from Thomas's widow, Anne (née Latter), who was probably a sister or cousin.

Anne Latter was baptised on 11 December 1608 at Rotherfield, Sussex, daughter of Edmund Latter and Agnes A'Downe. A'Downe/Downe is another old Rotherfield name with a Johe [John] atte Doune listed for Rotherfield in the Sussex subsidy (tax) of 1327.<sup>108</sup>

103 Transcript of the Parish Register of Burwash, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 285).

104 M J Burchall ed., *East Sussex Contributors to the Relief of Irish Protestants 1642*, Sussex Genealogical Centre, Occasional Paper No 10, (1984) (ESRO: Acc No 3607).

105 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 465).

106 Churchwardens account book of the parish of Rotherfield, Sussex 1509-1675 (ESRO: PAR 465/10/3/1) p. 118.

107 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 252.

108 Sussex subsidy of 1327: The rape of Pevensey, *The three earliest subsidies for the county of Sussex: 1296, 1327, 1332* (1910), pp. 184-205. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=65854>  
Date accessed: 11 October 2014.

It is likely that Anne was born and grew up in the house known as Salters on Packham's Hill in Rotherfield. Catherine Pullein states that Thomas Catt surrendered a messuage (house) and five acres called Salters to Edmund Latter and his heirs in September 1595 and that it passed down the family to John Latter who held it until 1685. She says that the position of the property was such that it lay on either side of the Station Road at Packham's Hill, each portion containing a narrow strip of land. When Pullein published her book in 1928 there was only one house on each portion and she speculated that the house on the south side of the road is older and therefore Salters (Fig. 29). However, the house on the north side of the road is known as Salters today (Fig. 30), so which one is correct is open to debate. Pullein also speculates that the property owes its name to a vendor of salt, William Le Selterre, who is mentioned in tax records in 1296.<sup>109</sup>

Anne had three marriages and six children:

**Anne Latter**, bap. 11 Dec 1608 at Rotherfield, Sussex, d. c1677  
 + **William Heath**, m. 4 May 1630 at Lewes, bur. 25 Oct 1635 at Rotherfield  
   — **Edmond Heath**, bap. 14 Nov 1630 at Rotherfield  
   — **Elizabeth Heath**, bap. 19 May 1633 at Rotherfield  
   — **Robert Heath**, bap. 8 Mar 1634/35 at Rotherfield  
 + **Thomas Nynne alias Barber**, bap. 1 Jan 1585 at Rotherfield, m. 7 Mar 1639  
   at Frant, Kent bur. 21 May 1649 at Rotherfield  
   — **Thomas Barber**, bap. 3 May 1640 at Rotherfield, bur. 1 Nov 1683  
   at Tonbridge, Kent  
   — **Elizabeth Barber**, bap. 11 Sep 1642 at Rotherfield  
   — **Anne Barber**, bap. 16 Feb 1644/45 at Rotherfield  
 + **Samuel Theobald**, bap. 16 Dec 1593 at Biddenden, Kent(?), m. c1655



Anne's first marriage was to William Heath of Frant. They obtained a marriage licence on 4 May 1630 at Archdeaconry of Lewes, Sussex.<sup>110</sup>

William Heath of Fraunt [Frant], warriner, and Anne Latter of Retherfield,  
 maiden: sureties, said W.H. and Thomas Foster of Clive [Cliffe] near Lewes,  
 inholder (St Mary Westout, Lewes).

Note that an inholder is an innkeeper. William gives his occupation as a warriner, which is a game or forest warden. They married on the same day at St Mary Westout, Lewes, Sussex (St Mary Westout is now called St Anne's, the oldest surviving church in Lewes).<sup>111</sup>

<sup>109</sup> Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928) (ESRO) p. 303.

<sup>110</sup> Edwin H W Dunkin ed., *Sussex Record Society Vol 1: Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences: Archdeaconry of Lewes 1586-1643*, Sussex Record Society (1901), (ESRO).

<sup>111</sup> Transcript of the Bishop's Transcripts of Lewes St Mary Westout, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 411).





**Fig. 29** The house on the south side of the road at Packham's Hill that Pullein speculates to be Salters. *Photo: Geoffrey Barber, April 2014*



**Fig. 30** The house known today as Salters at Packham's Hill in Rotherfield on a postcard stamped 1913. The house in Fig. 29 is across the road on the left.  
*Postcard in Private Collection of Geoffrey Barber*

William Heath died and was buried on 25 October 1635. He left a will made on 4 Aug 1635:<sup>112</sup>

In the name of god amen I **William Heath of Rotherfeild** in the Countie of Sussex yeoman being of pfect memorie doe this fourth daie of August in the Eleventh yeere of the Raigne of our soveraigne Charles [1635] by the grace of god Kinge of England Scotland France & Ireland defender of the faith &c make & declare this my last will and teastam't in manner & forme following Inprimis I give [& devise – crossed out] my soule to god my Creator my bodie I will shalbe buried in the earth. Itm I give & devise unto **my three Children Edmond Heath Robert Heath & Elizabeth Heath** five pounds apeece to be paid to them at their sev'rall ages of one & twentie yeeres or daies of marriage wch shall first happen All the rest of my goods cattells [capital] & chattells whatsoever I give & devise unto Anne my loveing wife & I make & ordeine my said loveing wife sole executrix of this my last will & teastament In wittnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seale the daie & yeare first abovewritten.

[signed] Willm Heath.

Wittnes unto his will

Nicholas Jeames

Thomas Weller jun.

[Latin] Probate 28 April 1636 on the oath of Anne Heath, the relict of the said deceased and Executrix.

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2011*

Anne's second husband Thomas Barber died and was buried on 21 May 1649 in Rotherfield. She was again left with three young children from the marriage: Thomas aged nine years, Elizabeth six years and Anne four years.

In 1655, Anne's father Edmond Latter died in Tonbridge leaving Anne twenty shillings. His will reads:<sup>113</sup>

In the name of God Amen The twentieth day of January in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand sixe hundred fiftye and fower I **Edmund Latter of Tonbridge** in the County of Kent yeoman beinge at this present weake in bodye but of perfect and sounde memorie praised be God doe make and declare this to be my Testament and last will in manner and forme followinge First I will and resigne my soule to God that gave it And my bodie I commit to the earth hopeinge to have a ioyfull resurrection thereof to eternall life by my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ And for that temporall estate which God hath lent me I will and dispose of the same as followeth (that is to saie) I will to **Alice my daughter wife to Henry Marten** Twenty

112 Will of William Heath of Rotherfield, 4 Aug 1635, pr. Lewes, 28 Apr 1636 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/24/84B).

113 Will of Edmund Latter of Tonbridge, Kent, 20 Jan 1654, pr. Prerogative Court of Canterbury, London, 2 Jan 1656 (The National Archives: PROB 11/261, p. 251).



shillings of lawfull English money And to the said **Henry Marten** I give all my wearinge apparell whatsoever to be paid and delivered unto them upon their reasonable demannd by myne Executrix Alsoe I will and give to **Robert Martyn** sonne of the said **Alice** my daughter the sume of five poundes of lawfull English money to be paid unto him within one yeare next after my decease by mine Executrix Alsoe I will and give to **Anne my daughter** in remembrance of her Twentye shillings to be paid unto her upon her demannd thereof Alsoe I will and give to **Edmund Latter my grandchild sonne of John Latter** my sonne deceased the sume of five poundes of lawfull money (of England) to be paid unto him at his age of one and twentie yeares if he shall live to attaine that age by mine Executrix. Alsoe I will and give to **John Latter my grandchild sonne of the said John my sonne deceased** the like summe of five poundes of lawfull money To be paid unto him at his age of one and Twentie yeares if he shall live to attaine that age by mine Executrix. Alsoe I will and give to **Richard Latter my brother** my redd cove to be delivered to him by myne executrix w'thin short tyme after my decease. Alsoe I will and give to **my godson John Moyse** Tenne shillings to be paid unto him at his age of one and twentie yeares if he live to attaine that age by myne Executrix. Alsoe all my moveable goodes Cattle [capital] household stuffe readie money debtes and chattles whatsoever and of what nature or kinde soever I wholie give leave and bequeath to **Anne my deare and loveinge wife** to enable her to pay my debts and legacies and to recompence her love and great paines by her shewed towards me And I make and ordeine the said **Anne my wife** to be the full and sole Executrix of this my Testament and last will In wittnes whereof I the said **Edmund Latter** have to this my Testament and last will sett my hand and seale the day and yeare first above written. **Edmund Latter**. Read, sealed, published and declared by the said Edmund Latter to be his Testament and last will in the presence of **Robert Weare, William Moyse** his marke, **Geo: Hooper**.

This will was proved at London before the Judges for probate of wills and grannting administracons lawfullie authorized the second day of January in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand sixe hundred and fiftye sixe by the oathe of **Anne Latter** the Relict and sole Executrix named in the last will and Testament of the said deceased To whome was grannted administracon &c she beinge by vertue of a Commission first legally sworne truely and faithfully to administer.

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2011*

Anne's sister Alice is mentioned in the above will as being married to Henry Marten which helped to confirm the link to Rotherfield, as Alice Latter married Henry Martin in Rotherfield on 26 January 1624.<sup>114</sup>

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114 Index to Sussex Marriages 1538-1837, Compact Disc SFHGCD003, Sussex Family History Group, 2008.

Anne's third marriage was to a clothier, Samuel Theobold, sometime between 1650 and 1661. Although the marriage record has not been found we know it occurred because on 7 January 1661/62 Anne's son Thomas Barber leases the cottage in Rotherfield Town and the Drapers land from Ann and her third husband, Samuel Theobold, who were occupying it:<sup>115</sup>

7 Jan 1661/62 Lease by Samuel Theobold of Tonbridge, Kent, clothier and Ann his wife, to Thomas Barber alias Nine, of Frant, Sussex, then servant to Thomas Weller, gent., of a messuage or tenement, outhouse, barn and stall and a small piece of land lying near the said barn, together with all gardens, closes, backside, etc. in Rotherfield Town. Also, 4 pieces of land and wood containing 22 acres, called Draperys in Rotherfield; all which premises the said Samuel held by right of An his wife made to her by jointure and lease from Thomas Barber alias Nine, her former husband, father of the above named Thomas. Term, the life of the said Ann Theobold party to the deed and mother of the said Thomas: rent yearly £11/5s. Signature of Samuel Theobold, and mark of Ann Theobold & seals. Witnesses: William Jeffery, Ann Barber (mk).

*Abstract by Sussex Archaeological Society*

This implies that Thomas Barber senior must have arranged a formal lease of all his properties to Ann for her lifetime. This was a common practice, often agreed prior to marriage and referred to as a marriage settlement, to ensure that Ann would have the use and control of her husband's property in the event of his death. She could use the properties to derive an income to provide for her and their children for as long as was needed. It also ensured that neither Anne nor any future husband of Anne could sell the property, and so preserved it for their children's inheritance. In this case, Samuel and Anne arranged to sub lease the properties to Thomas junior when he was 21 years old, for an annual rent of £11/5s. In doing so, Anne and Samuel received an income and Thomas got his property. On Anne's death the property would automatically transfer to Thomas as heir.

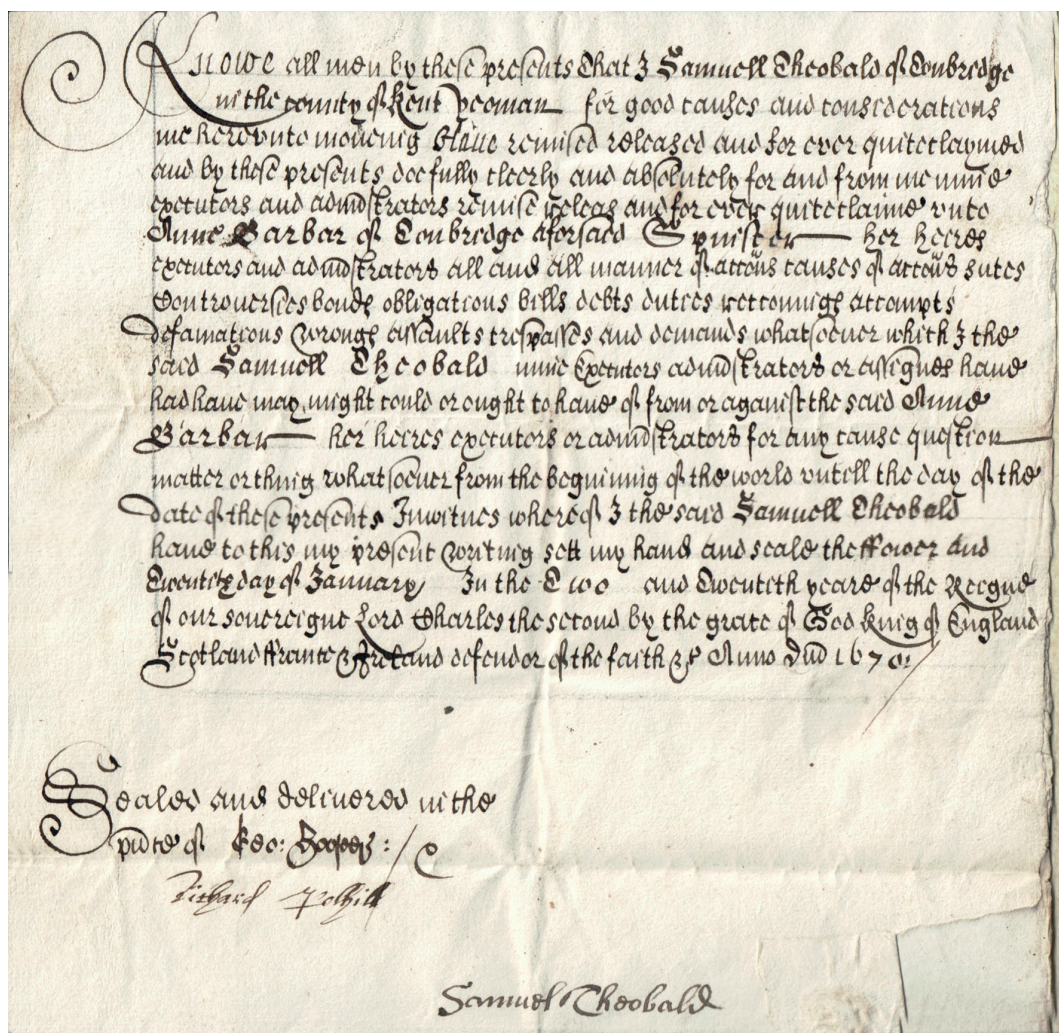
The witnesses to the above lease were William Jeffery and Ann Barber. Ann is most certainly the daughter of Anne Theobold (from her marriage to Thomas Barber) and William Jeffery is very likely to be the husband of her other daughter, Elizabeth. Although the marriage of William Jeffery and Elizabeth Barber has not been found, there are a number of baptisms in Tonbridge to William Jeffery (unfortunately the mother's name is not given) starting in 1661 suggesting a marriage c1660. The children's names match the Barber family very closely: Anne (1661), Mary (1665), John (1673), William (1677), Thomas (1679), Mary (1680), and George (1683).<sup>116</sup> To confuse matters, there is an Elizabeth Barber in the next generation (bap. 1677, daughter of

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<sup>115</sup> Sussex Archaeological Society, (ESRO: SAS FA 781).

<sup>116</sup> Webpage: *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org/>), source film number 0845142, 0845143.

It appears that Samuel and Anne lived in Tonbridge for the remainder of their life. The lease of 1661/62 states that Samuel Theobald is “*of Tonbridge*”, and there is another document dated 24 January 1670/71 in which Samuel Theobald, “*of Tonbridge, yeoman*”, releases Anne Barber, spinster, from any obligation to him (Fig. 31). This is clearly indicating a separation of affairs between Samuel and his step-daughter Anne Barber, but we do not know the circumstances behind



**Fig. 31** Legal document from Samuel Theobald declaring that his step-daughter Anne Barber has no obligations or liabilities to him, 24 January 1670. *Tonbridge Library*

it. It may be because Samuel had acted as a trustee for Anne and that this was now being changed due to Samuel and her mother getting old. The fact that this document ended up with Mary Barber's papers (her brother Thomas's wife) indicates that the unmarried Anne Barber was still in touch with her brother (who was also unmarried at this time) and that perhaps he was assisting her in this matter. The document is transcribed below:<sup>117</sup>

Knowe all men by these presents that I Samuell Theobald of Tonbridge in the county of Kent yeoman for good causes and considerations me hereunto moving Have remised released and for ever quiteclaymed and by these presents doe fully cleerly and absolutely for and from me mine executors and adm[ini]strators remise releas and for ever quiteclaime unto Anne Barbar of Tonbridge aforesaid Spinster her heires executors and adm[ini]strators all and all manner of accons causes of accons sute Controversies bonds obligations bills debts duties reconings accompts defamations wrongs assaults trepasses and demands whatsoever which I the said Samuell Theobald mine Executors adm[ini]strators or assignes have had may might could or ought to have of from or against the said Anne Barbar her heires executors or adm[ini]strators for any cause question matter or thing whatsoever from the beginning of the world until the day of the date of these presents In witnes whereof I the said Samuell Theobald have to this my present writing sett my hand and seale the fower and Twentieth day of January In the Two and Twentieth yeare of the Reigne of our soveraigne Lord Charles the second by the grace of God King of England Scotland France & Ireland defender of the faith &c Anno d[omi]ni 1670

Sealed and delivered in the  
p[re]s[en]ce of Geo. Hooper: & Richard Polhill  
Samuel Theobald.

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, April 2014*

Anne Theobald's burial record has not been found, but there are pages missing in the Tonbridge burial register between 29 May 1673 and 7 March 1680 so she probably died during this time. She almost certainly died before 6 December 1677 when there is a manorial record of a transfer of the Bonnetts and Bathelands properties from her son Thomas Barber to Edmund Latter.<sup>118</sup> These are the properties in Rotherfield village that were first held by John Barber alias Nynne in 1530 and which were held by Anne for life (as noted in the lease of 1661/62). Her son Thomas had married in 1672 and was now living in Hildenborough (near Tonbridge) so the house in Rotherfield village was no longer required. However, he continued to hold the Drapers property as it would have been able to provide a valuable source of income.

<sup>117</sup> Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

<sup>118</sup> Court Books of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1631-1753 (ESRO: ABE 74O1), p. 252.





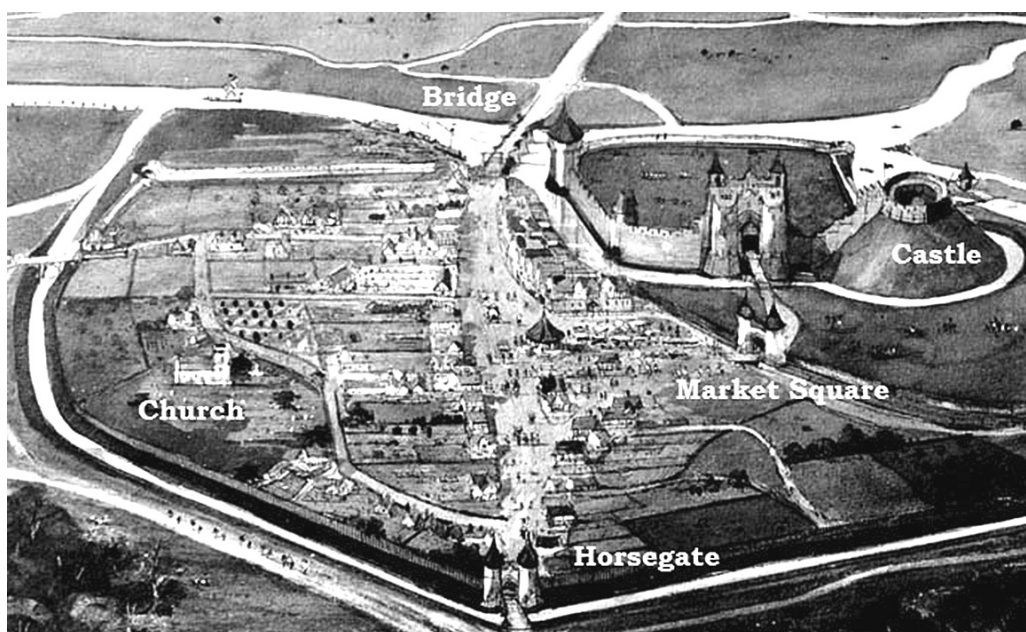


Fig. 32 Conjectural bird's-eye view looking south over Tonbridge as it might have looked in c.1260. From a drawing by J.F. Wadmore, 1886 – Tonbridge Historical Society, annotations G. Barber



Fig. 33 Tonbridge in 1795 showing the bridge over the river Medway and the ruined castle in the background. *Tunbridge Castle: Engraved by Joseph Constantine Stadler, after a drawing by Joseph Farington. Published June 1795.*

## CHAPTER FOUR

# TONBRIDGE *c1670-1841*

THE BARBERS TIME IN ROTHERFIELD CAME TO AN END SOON AFTER THE DEATH of Thomas Barber in 1649. His widow Anne continued to live there for a while and remarried Samuel Theobald, a clothier, probably in the late 1650s. They appear to have moved to Tonbridge in Kent around 1662 when they leased the Rotherfield properties to their son Thomas. In 1670 Samuel is recorded as a yeoman of Tonbridge.

In 1662 Anne's son Thomas was already living away from Rotherfield working in Frant as a servant of the Weller family. By the time of his marriage in 1672 he had also moved to Tonbridge and in 1677 he sold the family home (Bonnetts and Bachelands) in Rotherfield village. This was almost certainly following the death of his mother who had a life interest in the property. Apart from retaining the Drapers property, the family had now cut their ties to Rotherfield with Thomas now a husbandman at Hilden (now called Hildenborough), a hamlet within the parish of Tonbridge and a few kilometres away from the town.

Tonbridge would have been a small market town in the late 17th century. It had a Norman castle, built to protect the important river crossing over the Medway, which unfortunately was destroyed as a consequence of the Civil War only a few years before the Barbers arrived. A conjectural picture of the town in c1260 with its dominating castle is shown in Fig. 32. The bridge and the ruined castle remain the most prominent features in the town (Fig. 33).

According to Chalklin, the population of Tonbridge in the late 17th century is estimated to be about 600-800 people. The town was an important commercial centre for the area with a weekly market and from 1671 a monthly cattle market. The trades and crafts were mainly blacksmiths, butchers, shoemakers and tailors with the cloth industry being very important to the town. The lack of any specialised or luxury trades indicated that they were on the whole restricted to supporting the necessities of life which was typical of a small market town dependant for its livelihood on the local farmers.<sup>119</sup>

Tonbridge was on the main road from London to Hasting and Rye and as a result there was also business for carriers and innkeepers with about half a dozen inns in the town. One interesting fact is that it had one of only four theatres known

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119 C.W. Chalklin, *A Seventeenth-Century Market Town: Tonbridge* Archaeologia Cantiana 76, 1961.

outside London in the 17th century. A court case at Maidstone Assizes Court records the fatal wounding of a man at the “Tonbridge Playhouse” in 1610.

Whereas Rotherfield had been under the control of a single manor, Tonbridge, the largest parish in Kent, was divided between four large manors and at least another three smaller ones. According to Chalklin, there were few controls exercised by these manors (unlike Rotherfield) and most existed merely as collectors of rents, heriots, fines and reliefs. These dues were not particularly onerous to copyhold and freehold landholders as most were fixed by custom and had become trifling amounts over time (e.g. widow Mary Barber paid 6d per year as quit rent on her Hildenborough property). There was bigger money for the manors in leasehold property however, as these could be adjusted to market rates when leases were renewed.

The Barbers first settled in Hilden (or Hildenborough) and as a result came under the smaller manor of Datchurst. The first evidence we see of this is in 1691 when Widow Barber is admitted to a copyhold property there. They later held property in Tonbridge Town which came under the manor of Tonbridge. An indication of the weak organisation of the manors, and probably the trifling amounts of customary dues, is highlighted by the fact that in 1832 many people were summoned by the manor of Tonbridge to pay quit rent arrears. The long list of people summoned would indicate that the quit rents had simply not been collected, with Mary Barber being 45 years in arrears at 2d per year!<sup>120, 121</sup>

A more detailed discussion on the manors of Tonbridge is to be found in Wadmore (1906).<sup>122</sup>

The breakup of the large manors in the forty years after 1674 is of great importance to the history of Tonbridge as it changed the pattern of land ownership much to the benefit of the local people, especially the smaller gentry and larger farmers. Datchurst itself was divided into two parts in 1713. In 1741 the River Medway became navigable, turning Tonbridge into an inland port. Within a hundred years the population had quadrupled and the town transformed.

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120 Accounts of Quit Rents Due to Lord of Manor of Tonbridge (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M1/23, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge)

121 C.W. Chalklin, *The Rural Economy of a Kentish Wealden Parish 1650-1750* in “The Agricultural History Review”, Vol X, 1962, Part 1.

122 B. Wadmore, *Some Details in the History of the Parish of Tonbridge*, 1906, (Tonbridge Library: C130314352).

## Thomas Barber 1640-1683 & Mary Rootes c1645-1732

**Thomas Barber**, bap. 3 May 1640 at Rotherfield, Sussex, bur. 1 Nov 1683 at Tonbridge, Kent  
+**Mary Rootes**, b. c1647, mlic. 11 Oct 1672 at Chevening, Kent, bur. 4 May 1732

at Tonbridge

— **Richard Barber**, bap. c1673, bur. 2 Jun 1722 at Tonbridge

+**Margaret Wigzell**, bap. 18 Jul 1688 at Kemsing, Kent, m. 18 Nov 1712 at Kemsing

— **Thomas Barber**, bap. 8 Sep 1713 at Tonbridge, bur. 17 Dec 1754 at Tonbridge

— **Elizabeth Barber**, bap. 31 Oct 1714 at Tonbridge

— **Richard Barber**, bap. 9 May 1716 at Tonbridge, bur. 26 Dec 1786 at Tonbridge

— **Martha Barber**, bap. 28 May 1718 at Tonbridge, bur. 16 May 1721 at Tonbridge

— **Margaret Barber**, bap. 7 Feb 1721 at Tonbridge

— **Mary Barber**, bap. 14 Feb 1718/19 at Kemsing

— **Thomas Barber**, bap. 12 May 1675 at Tonbridge, bur. 28 May 1749 at Tonbridge

— **Elizabeth Barber**, bap. 20 Jun 1677 at Tonbridge

+**William Jeffery**, m. 9 Dec 1705 at Tonbridge

— **Ann Jeffery**, bap. 22 Sep 1706 at Tonbridge

— **William Jeffery**, bap. 15 May 1712 at Tonbridge

— **Thomas Jeffery**, bap. 17 Feb 1714 at Tonbridge

— **Sarah Jeffery**, bap. 12 Jun 1715 at Tonbridge

— **John Jeffery**, bap. 8 Sep 1719 at Tonbridge

— **Mary Barber**, bap. 5 May 1679 at Tonbridge, bur. before 1683



Fig. 34 Seal of the Lowy of Tonbridge. *Tonbridge Historical Society*

Thomas Barber was baptised on 3 May 1640 at Rotherfield, Sussex. His father died when he was only nine years old and his mother Anne was left a widow with a young family for the second time. She continued to live in Rotherfield and was later to marry for a third time, to Samuel Theobald. Her husband had foreseen this possibility and given her the right to hold all his properties by jointure and lease while she still lived, ensuring that she could provide for herself and her family in the event of his death and also thus protecting the young Thomas's inheritance in case she remarried (which she did).

At the age of 21 years, on 7 January 1661/62, Thomas leased these properties (the cottage in Rotherfield Town and the 22 acres of land known as Drapers) from his mother and her third husband. He agreed to pay them a rent of £11/5s per year, with the term of the lease being for the life of Anne, thus providing her with an income for the remainder of her life.<sup>123</sup> On Anne's death the properties passed to Thomas under the original jointure and lease agreement.

When Thomas signed the lease he states that he is living and working in Frant as a servant to Thomas Weller, gent. We have evidence that Thomas Barber's uncle,

<sup>123</sup> Sussex Archaeological Society, Transcription, (ESRO: SAS FA 781).



John Barber, was also living in Frant in 1662 as the burial of his wife is recorded there: “20 Jun 1662 buried Mary, wife of John Barber, Retherfield”. John was the only brother of Thomas’s father and probably played a role in the upbringing of the young Thomas.<sup>124</sup>

It is likely that Thomas was placed in service with the Weller family in his mid-teens, when most boys entered some form of service or apprenticeship, and probably remained in service at least until he got married. Thomas was probably a “servant in husbandry”, working to assist the Wellers on their estate/farm, particularly given his later occupation of husbandman.

The Wellers were primarily a family of lawyers and connections to them start in 1635 when Thomas Weller witnessed the will of William Heath, the first husband of Thomas Barber’s mother, Ann. This is likely to be the same Thomas Weller who took her son into service, which would have happened around the time that Thomas Weller was appointed steward of the manor of Rotherfield in 1653.<sup>125</sup>

Thomas Weller of Frant may be the same person who played an important role in the Civil War around Tonbridge 1642-46. He wrote his memoirs and later moved away from Tonbridge and died at Eridge Green (in Frant) in 1670 age 68 years. Weller’s death and the fact that his son lived in Tonbridge and was appointed under-steward of the Honor of Otford in 1671 (which included the manor of Datchurst alias Hilden near Tonbridge) probably influenced Thomas Barber to move to Hilden, an event which we know must have occurred between 1662 and 1672.<sup>126, 127, 128</sup> It may even have been undertaken in relation to his employment with the Weller family. Another factor may also have been that his mother and sisters were already living in Tonbridge. The connection to the Wellers appears to have continued and in 1691 we find Thomas Weller signing as under-steward for the manor of Datchurst (alias Hilden) when Mary Barber took possession of a cottage there.

Thomas Barber married Mary Rootes in 1672 and so began a period where the family lived in Tonbridge for the next 170 years, although they maintained a connection to Rotherfield through the ownership of the Drapers property.

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124 Transcript of the Parish Register of Frant, Sussex, England, 1544-1881 (ESRO: PAR 344).

125 Appointment by Jn., Lord Bergevenny, of Thos. Weller, gent. of Tonbridge, Kent, as Steward of Manors of Birling, Ryarsh, Luddesdown, & Teperedge, Kent, & Manors of Rotherfield, Eridge, Bulloketown, & Roughhedges, Sussex. Signed by Lord Bergevenny, with shapeless seal attached, 6 Apr 1653 (The National Archives: HA 519/89/65).

126 Frank Chapman, *The Book of Tonbridge*, Barracuda Books Limited (1976), “Tom Weller’s War” pp. 55-57.

127 J.J. Howard, *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, Vol II*, New Series, Hamilton, Adams, and Co., (1876).

128 Appointment by Robt., Earl of Leicester, of Thos. Weller, gent. of Tunbridge, Kent, as Understeward of Honor of Otford. Manors of Penshurst Halemote, Hundred of Somerden with Kingsborough & Halborough, & Manor of Datchurst & Hilderborough. Signed by Earl of Leicester, 26 Sept 1671 (The National Archives: HA 519/96/66).



They obtained a marriage licence on 11 October 1672: “*Thomas Barber alias Nin, of Tunbridge, Kent, Bachr, abt 30, & Mary Rootes, of the same, Spr, abt 25, at own disp.; alleged by Edwd Clarke, of Chevening, Kent, Dr of Divy; at Chevening*”.<sup>129</sup> The actual marriage has not been found as there is a gap in the parish marriages register for Chevening from June 1651 restarting in 1685. There are also no surviving Bishop’s Transcripts so without this licence the details of the marriage would have been lost.<sup>130</sup>

The marriage allegation shows that Edward Clarke of Chevening, Doctor of Divinity, appeared personally (it doesn’t say where but presumably at the Vicar-General’s office in London) and alleged that Thomas Barber als Nin of Tunbridge [*sic*] aged about 30 years and a bachelor intended to marry Mary Rootes of the same parish aged about 25 years and a spinster “at her owne dispose” (meaning that she did not have to gain anyone’s permission to marry) and that he did not know or believe there was any impediment to hinder the intended marriage. He asked for a licence for the parties to be married in the parish church of Chevening. A licence enabled the couple to marry without the calling of banns in their home parishes (which is the announcing of the intended marriage on three Sundays prior to the marriage). It is interesting to see that Clarke obtained the marriage licence rather than either Thomas or Mary having to travel (presumably to London) to obtain it, but maybe he had gone to the Vicar General’s office on some other business.

Mary’s background is unknown. She may have been born in Chevening as there were certainly Rootes families living there, although there is no baptism for Mary. The only possible baptism found to date is at Fletching, Sussex on 2 November 1645, daughter of Robert Rootes. Robert was baptised 26 November 1617 at Frant, Sussex, son of Richard Rootes, and was buried in Fletching on 24 August 1672. If this is Mary’s father then his death may have prompted her marriage two months later. Robert’s father Richard Rootes became the vicar of Fletching (1619-1641) and was buried there on 20 June 1650.<sup>131, 132</sup> Thomas and Mary named their first child Richard.

Also of interest is a Thomas Rootes who was the longest serving headmaster at Tonbridge School (1668-1714). When he was admitted as a student in 1651 he was noted as being “*son of a poor widow of Tonbridge*”. There may be a connection given that a William Rootes, son of Richard Rootes of Fletching, Sussex, clerk (and therefore possibly Mary’s uncle) was admitted to the school in 1633.<sup>133</sup> Although none of the Barbers ever attended Tonbridge School there is

129 Harleian Society: Allegations for Marriage Licences Issued By The Vicar: General of The Archbishop of Canterbury, 1669 To 1679. Volume 34, The Harleian Society, First Edition (1892), (Canterbury Cathedral Archives).

130 Transcript of the Parish Register of Chevening, Kent, England (KHL: P88/1/1).

131 Webpage: *The Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835* (CCed) (<http://db.theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/persons/DisplayCcePerson.jsp?PersonID=78806>), viewed 21 Apr 2014

132 Index to Sussex Baptisms and Burials, 1538 onwards, Sussex Family History Group, <http://www.sfhg.org.uk/>

133 W.G. Hart, *The Register of Tonbridge School from 1553-1820* (Tonbridge Library C151703611).

the possibility of some interesting connections.

The Hearth Tax Assessment of 1664 lists the following Rootes living in Tonbridge Town, some of which are likely to be Mary's family:<sup>134</sup>

Name	No. of Hearths
M[aste]r Thomas Rootes	5
John Rootes	2
Richard Rootes the carry[er]	3
Richard Rootes at the Crowne	9
William Rootes	3
Elizabeth Rootes widd[ow]	4

We could speculate that Thomas and Mary married in Chevening either because Mary had family in the parish or because of connections to the church. If the latter, perhaps Edward Clarke, Doctor of Divinity, was a personal friend or they approved more of his religious stance and preaching than the current incumbent of Tonbridge parish church. On the other hand it may have been simply because Edward Clarke was able to obtain a marriage licence and that this enabled them to be married with a greater degree of privacy and speed.

In 1677 there is a manorial record of the transfer of the Bonnetts and Bathelands/Bachelands properties in Rotherfield from Thomas Barber to Edmund Latter who is probably a family relative of Thomas given that his mother's maiden name was also Latter. These are the properties in Rotherfield village that were leased to Thomas by his mother Anne in 1662 and first held by John Nynne (alias Barber) in 1530. The transfer is almost certainly a consequence of the death of Anne, especially as the fee paid includes a heriot. The document is transcribed below:<sup>135</sup>

Retherfield Court Roll, 1677, Nynne alias Barber

Court Baron of William Dyke, Esquire, and Ralph Snowden, held in the same place for the tenants of the aforesaid manor on the sixth day of December in the 29th year of the reign of our Lord Charles the Second, by the grace of God, now King of England etc, and in the year of our Lord 1677, by Thomas Hoop [or Hooper], gentleman, steward.

Essoins: None

Homage: Nicholas Hosmer, Abraham Alchorne, Thomas Hosmer (sworn)

To this Court came Thomas Nynne alias Barbour and surrendered into the hands of the Lords, by the acceptance of their aforesaid steward, one messuage or tenement, one garden and one barn, called Bonnetts, and a certain way leading from the messuage to the aforesaid barn, and also one other garden containing one rood of land called Bathelands lying near the aforesaid barn, and one piece of meadow containing half an acre, and one wooden building, in English a lodge or hovel, and one garden previously Adam Fermor's, situated

134 *Kent Hearth Tax Assessment Lady Day 1664 CKS: Q/RTh*, Transcribed and Computerised by D. Harrington (1999) at *Hearth Tax Online* (<http://www.hearthtax.org.uk/>).

135 Court Books of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1631-1753 (ESRO: ABE 74O1) p. 252.

and lying in Retherfeild, held by rent of [blank], heriot, relief and other services, to the use of Edmund Latter and his heirs, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor. And thereupon to this court came the aforesaid Edmund and sought that he be admitted to the messuage, tenement, barn, garden, lands and premises aforesaid, with the appurtenances, to whom the lords, through their aforesaid steward, granted seisin thereof by rod, to have and to hold to the same Edmund and his heirs, at the will of the lords, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, by the rent and services formerly due in respect thereof and by right accustomed. And he gave to the lords, as fine and heriot, a composition, £3 13s 4d. And he is admitted as tenant thereof. And he has seisin by rod. And he makes fealty to the lords.

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2011*

Sadly, Thomas died just 11 years after his marriage leaving Mary with three young children. He must have known he was dying as his will was written just four days before his burial. He was buried on 1 November 1683 at Tonbridge, Kent, aged 43 years with the entry stating that he is “*of Hilden*”.<sup>136</sup>

He left a will made on 28 October 1683 (Fig. 35):<sup>137</sup>

In the name of God Amen the eigh and twentieth of Octobar in 1683 I **Thomas Barbar of tonbridg** in the county of kent husbane man being at this present of sound and parfect minde and memory prayes bee God but sick and weake in body doe therfore make and ordayne this to be my last Testament and will In manner and forme following first and principallye I will and resigne my soule into the hands of God my maker hoping To have pardn for all my sins throe the merits deth and resurriktion of Jesus Christ my alon Redemar and my body I commit to the earth in such desent mannar to bee buried as mine Ex[ecutrix] hereafter named shall thinke fite And as concerning that estate aswell reall as parsonall which god of his mercy hath lent me here on earth I orden will and dispose of as followith that is to say I will and giv unto **mary my loving wif** all my lands lying in Pearsil(?) in the couty of sothsex known by the name of **Dreapars** or by any other name or names what so ever for term of har natarall life with libarty to sell the timbar now standing theron within the spas of thre years after my desis preserving the under wads [underwoods] and timbar that shall renew grow or incres theron derring har natarall life and aftar har deses for the yeus of my to **sons Ricard Barbar and Thomas Barbar** paying therout to **Elizabeth Barbar** my daftar the some of forty and fif poundes with in too years after my wifs deses the rest of my Goods and chatells watever to my wif toward bringing up of my **thre children Richard Thomas and Elizabeth** I likwis make and ordayn mary my wif soll exsecutar of this my testamint and last will and to pay my depts and fendarall charges wher unto I have set my hand and sill  
The marke of Thomas Barbar

<sup>136</sup> Transcript of the Parish Register of Tonbridge, Kent, England, 1547-1730 (KHLc: TR 2451/20).

<sup>137</sup> Will of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, 28 Oct 1683, pr. 14 Dec 1683 (KHLc: DRa/PW4).

In the name of God Amen the eight and twentieth of October in 1683 I Thomas  
Barber of Tonbridge in the county of Kent husband man being at this present  
of sound and perfect mind and memory prayeth to his God that he will  
and wills in his due course make and ~~make~~ ordain his ~~will~~ to be  
my last testament and will In manner and form following first and  
principally I will and resigne my soule into the hands of God my  
maker hoping to have pardon for all my sins through the merits of  
and redemption of Jesus Christ my alon redemer and my body I  
bequeath to the earth in such decent manner to be buried as mine  
executors shall think fit and as concerning that estate which I have  
and possesseth of his goods both but me here on earth I ordain  
and dispose of as followeth That is to say I will and give unto my  
loving wife Elizabeth being in divers in the county of Kent known by  
the name of Quakers or by any other name or name what so ever  
the sum of five hundred and fifty pounds with the interest thereof  
standing upon within the space of three years after my death providing  
the said wife and her heirs shall never receive or interest therein  
during her natural life for the year of my death I have given  
and Thomas Barber giving her out to Elizabeth Barber my wife the sum  
of four hundred and fifty pounds with in six years after my death  
the said wife and Elizabeth receiving up of my three hundred and  
fifty pounds and Elizabeth I bequeath ~~to~~ make and ordain my will  
Thomas and Elizabeth of this my testament and last will and to pay my debts  
and funeral charges ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~into~~ I have in my hand and sell  
after her wife and  
to my wife and was delivered  
before the selling herof  
sold and delivered before  
the mark of William Ousbun  
the mark of John mepam  
Richard Polhill  
Decemb. 14 1683  
[in Latin] the executrix of this testament made oath before me Joh: Stileman  
surrogate.  
Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2010

Fig. 35 The will of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, 28 Oct 1683. ESRO

Aftar har disis and  
To mary my wif was entalined  
Befor the selling herof did  
Selid and delevered befor  
The mark of William Ousbun  
The marke of John mepam  
Richard Polhill  
Decemb. 14 1683  
[in Latin] the executrix of this testament made oath before me Joh: Stileman  
surrogate.  
Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2010

We know from his will that Thomas was a 'husbane man', or husbandman, which would generally mean that he was a tenant farmer who cultivated rented or leased land (as opposed to a yeoman farmer who cultivated his own land). While there was

a distinction between yeomen and husbandmen, the variability in wealth and size of yeoman landholdings meant that it was often hard to distinguish between the wealthier husbandmen and the poorer yeomen. Lawrence Biddle's book "*Leigh in Kent 1550 to 1900*" makes comment on the prosperity and wealth of the tenant farmers in the nearby village of Leigh indicating that these were not poor people.<sup>138</sup> Also, many tenant farmers owned property as well, just as Thomas owned Drapers in Rotherfield, making it difficult to generalise. It is worth noting that Drapers must have become quite a valuable property to be able to bear raising the sum of £45 against it to be given to daughter Elizabeth as her share of her father's estate.

However, although the will tells us that Thomas was a husbandman and that he and Mary lived in Hildenborough, there is no evidence of them occupying land or farming there. We do know that Thomas sold the house in Rotherfield village in 1677 (he would have had to wait until the death of his mother) and would therefore have had money to become reasonably well established in Hildenborough, especially if he was just leasing the land rather than owning it. However, a search of the Tonbridge Overseers of the Poor rating assessments from 1670 to 1692 shows no entries for Barber. This is not what would be expected if Thomas leased property for farming, suggesting that he may have worked on one of the larger estates, perhaps the Datchurst manor, and that this could have been as an extension of his employment with the Weller family in Frant as Thomas Weller did become an under-steward at Datchurst in 1671 and the first evidence of Thomas Barber living in Tonbridge parish is his marriage in 1672.<sup>139, 140</sup>

Thomas's move to Tonbridge/Hildenborough would ultimately prove to be a wise one. His move coincided with the start of a social transformation in Tonbridge brought about by the auction of four of Tonbridge's manorial estates from the end of the 17th century through to the early 18th century which enabled the farmers, freeholders, yeoman and merchants to purchase land and over several generations acquire significant properties. Families such as the Wellers, Hoopers, Woodgates and Childrens all benefitted, increasing their wealth and social status. This flowed through to other levels of society, allowing former tenants and copyholders to become independent farmers and also to purchase property in the town. All were to benefit also from the prosperity that came when the River Medway was made navigable to Tonbridge in 1741. Although the Barbers were not of the same social status as the Wellers and the Childrens, they rode the wave of prosperity and eventually became owners of a number of Tonbridge properties.<sup>141</sup>

138 Lawrence Biddle, *Leigh in Kent 1550 to 1900*, First Edition (1991), p. 27

139 Overseers of the Poor Accounts Books for the parish of Tonbridge, Kent, England (KHL: P371/12/1-4).

140 Appointment by Robt., Earl of Leicester, of Thos. Weller, gent. of Tunbridge, Kent, as Understeward of Honor of Otford. Manors of Penshurst Halemore, Hundred of Somerden with Kingsborough & Halborough, & Manor of Datchurst & Hilderborough. Signed by Earl of Leicester, 26 Sept 1671 (The National Archives: HA 519/96/66).

141 C.W. Chalklin Ed., *Georgian Tonbridge*, First Edition (1994), Chapter: The Landed and Propertied Classes of Georgian Tonbridge by Dr P.L. Humphries.



## The Widow (Mary) Barber c1647-1732

Mary was only about 36 years old when her husband Thomas died. She remained a widow for another 49 years and died at about 85 years of age. After Thomas's death Mary seems to have had the support of a legal representative or trustee judging by the amount of documents which survive, most of which were deposited in the Tonbridge Library in the 1950s by the firm of solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson. Nearly all the documents refer to her as "Widow Barber". She appears to have made the best of her circumstances and was successful in raising a family which was able to take advantage of the prosperity and opportunities that Tonbridge offered in the 18th century.

Mary was the second of four consecutive generations of Barber wives who suffered the fate of being left a widow with a young family. It is a testament to the strength of the women that they were able to preserve the family property for their children and that they continued to prosper despite their misfortune.

When Thomas died late October 1683 Mary was left with three children; Richard aged about 10 years old, Thomas eight years, and Elizabeth six years. According to Thomas's will, Mary's major asset was the Draper's property in Rotherfield which she would have been able to lease and also, according to the will, to sell the timber thereon in the first three years after his death. Mary did not hesitate to use Drapers to secure an income for her family. Three months after Thomas died, in a document dated 29 January 1684, she leased the property to John Lockyer of Rotherfield for the sum of £6/10s per year for a period of 11 years (Fig. 36.). The document reads:<sup>142</sup>

January 29th 1684

Mary Barber of Tonbridge widow

It is Agreed between Mr. Pauly and John Lockyer of Rotherfield for the Rentt of the Draperys for John Lockyer to enter as Mickellmas Last and to Have A Leas for eleven yeares paying six pound & tenn shilling a yeare but Allso He the said John Lockyer is not to pay this Hallfe years Rent which is due between this Last Mich' and our Lady day but John Lockyer is to pay all the Taxes for this Hallfe yeare and so forwod: Allso he is to Have Ruftember [rough timber] for poostes and bars & gatts [gates] allso Six poosts to sett up for A Houfell [Hovel] or lodge and to leve itt Repaired & to Leve the Copises coppice] well fenced and A yeares groth : not for to plow Any ground for the Tarme [term] of the Leas and to Lop and to top All Trees which Have benn topped and no other and not to fill [fell] Any Timber nor timber tres and He is to pay for the first Hallf years Rennt betwene our ladiday and Mickellmas

<sup>142</sup> Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

To Leave 40 Tellowes [branches or shoots] more than now and [?] the [?] rerers.

[margin]

three pound and tenn shillings and to pay Six pound and tenn Shilling A yeare After and to pay the rent quarterly and not to lett or sett with out the Lanlords Consent.

[on reverse]

To lay the dounge [dung] on the land and To leave A numbar of young tillows as shall bee agrid on when the Cops [coppice] is fillid [felled].

Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, April 2014

January 29 1684  
 Mary Barber of Rotherfield widow  
 It is agreed between Mr Pauley and  
 John Lockyer for the Rent of the Drapers  
 for John Lockyer to enter as Mr Bellinas  
 last and to stand a Leas for eleven years  
 paying six pound & tenn shilling a yeare  
 but also the said John Lockyer is not  
 to pay this halfe years Rent which is due  
 between this last Mich & our Lady day but  
 John Lockyer is to pay all the dayes for this  
 halfe yeare and so forward: Also he is to stand  
 & pay for poostes and bays <sup>& galls</sup> <sup>or lodge</sup> <sup>and to lowe it</sup> <sup>as before</sup>  
 poostes to sett up <sup>at</sup> Houfoll & to lowe the Cops  
 well fenced and a yeares growth not for to plow  
 nor any ground for the darne of the Leas and to  
 lay and to lowe all drees which have been toyed  
 and no other and not to fill any dimbre nor timbours  
 He is to pay for the first halfe yeares Rent  
 be twent overlandes and Michellmas  
 so have ye Drapers m<sup>rs</sup> ye m<sup>rs</sup>

three pound and tenn shillings and to pay six pound and  
 tenn shilling a yeare after and to the Rent quarterly  
 and not to lett or sett with out the Landlords Consent

Fig. 36 Lease of the Drapers property in Rotherfield to John Lockyer for 11 years; dated 29 January 1684. Tonbridge Library

Richard Polhill is a person of interest and may have acted as Mary's trustee. His name first appears on the Anne Barber & Samuel Theobald agreement of 1670 and then on Thomas Barber's will of 1683 where he signed his name as witness. The handwriting matches the rest of the will suggesting that he may have been part of the legal profession, possibly a scrivener. Richard Polhill was the owner of Philpots (manor) farm in Hildenborough and the mention of Mr Pauly in the above lease agreement of 1684 may refer to him as Polle was an alternate spelling for Polhill and Paul's Farm in Leigh is an ancestral home of one of the Polhill families.<sup>143</sup> He had some standing in the community having been a churchwarden of the Tonbridge Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul in 1672 and also his son William had attended Tonbridge School 1660-1665. Cope and Dash (2007) give the following information about Richard Polhill and Philpots manor:<sup>144</sup>

The manor is recorded in 1300 when John de Philipott left land to Robert Charles, bailiff of Tunbridge forest. It passed by marriage about the time of Henry VIII [1509-1547] to the Childrens, one of the oldest families in the Tonbridge district. In the time of Charles II [1660-1685], it belonged to Richard Polhill, one of whose ancestors was bow-bender to Elizabeth I. It is said to be haunted by two men.

Hasted's survey of 1798 states that Philpots was "once reputed a manor the memory of which has long since been obliterated".<sup>145</sup>

Mary was executor of her husband's will. A note dated 24 November 1684 from Anne Skeffington, lady of the manor of Datchurst (otherwise known as the manor of Hilden) states that the widow Barber has no debts owing to the manor (Fig. 37). Although we do not know what prompted this statement it very much looks like the work of an executor of a will ensuring that all debts have been paid and would probably have been requested by whoever was assisting Mary. It could even support the view that Mary's husband worked for the Datchurst manor in which case they probably would have lived in accommodation provided by manor and so there was potential for a debt to arise. The statement reads:<sup>146</sup>

Know all men by these presents that I Anne Skeffington of Tonbridge in ye county of Kent, widow, doe acknowledge myself to have received of Barber, widow full satisfaction of her for all rents, dues, debtes reckonings

143 Herbert Klocker, *The Lowy of Tonbridge in Kent* (1929), (five lectures), Manorial Society Pub. No. 15, (Tonbridge Library C130358691).

144 Kay Cope and Joan Dash, *This is Hildenborough from A-Z*, Hildenborough Parish Council, Revised 2007, p. 40

145 Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent, Vol V* (1798), pp. 224,225.

146 Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).



Know all men by these presents that  
 Anne Skeffington of Cambridge in  
 County of Kent widow doe acknowledge  
 her self to have received of Barber  
 widow full satisfaction for all  
 rents, dues, debts, reckonings & demands  
 from the beginning of the world to the  
 day of & date of these presents witness  
 my hand the 24<sup>th</sup> day of this instant  
 November 1684

Anne Skeffington

Fig. 37 Statement from Anne Skeffington, Lady of the Manor of Datchurst (alias Hilden), dated 24 November 1684. *Tonbridge Library*

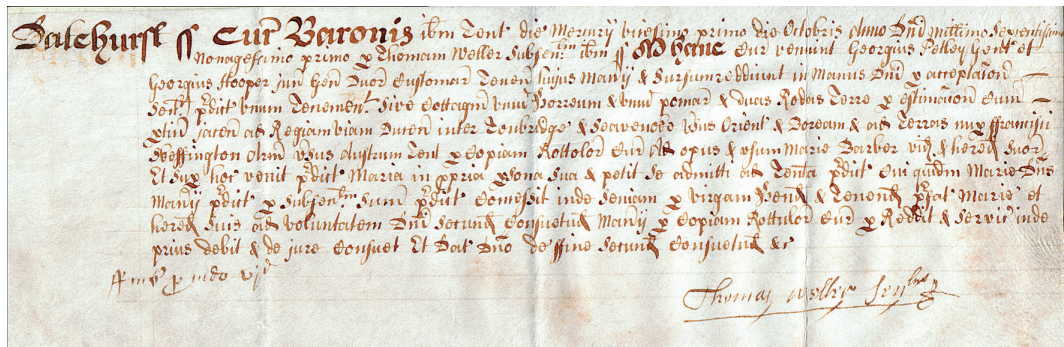
& demandes from the beginning of the World to the day of ye date of these presents. Wittnes my hand the 24th day of this instant November 1684. [signed] Anne Skeffington. [Anne Skeffington of Hanover House, Tonbridge. Lady of the Manor of Datchurst.]

*Transcription by an unknown person, forming part of the TU1/M2/1 collection*

Anne Skeffington's husband, Francis Skeffington, had died earlier on 30 April 1684, aged 77 years, and he gave by will £210 to purchase an annuity to provide twelve four-penny loaves of wheaten bread weekly to the poor of Tonbridge forever. Their daughter Mary married William Danvers, a name that appears later in some of the land holdings leased by Mary Barber.

On 21st October 1691 Mary Barber became the owner of a small cottage in Hildenborough. Remarkably, the title that she received still survives; that is, a copy of the entry in the manorial court rolls which records her admission to the property (Fig. 38). It is transcribed (from the Latin) below:<sup>147</sup>

<sup>147</sup> Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).



**Fig. 38** A copy of the entry in the court books of the manor of Datchurst (alias Hilden) dated 21 October 1691 where Mary takes possession of the cottage in Hildenborough. Issued as a separate document and not part of the manorial court roll suggesting it was Mary's copy of the "title". *Tonbridge Library*

### Datchurst

**Court Baron** held in the same place on Wednesday, the twenty first day of October in the one thousand six hundred and ninety first year of our Lord, by Thomas Weller, under steward in the same place.

**To this** Court came George Petley, gent, and George Hooper junior, gent, two of the customary tenants of this manor, and surrendered into the lord's hands, by the acceptance of the aforesaid steward,

One tenement or cottage, one barn and one orchard, and two roods of land by estimation, with the appurtenances, lying on the highway leading between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks towards the east and north, and the lands late of Francis Skeffington esquire towards the south, held by copy of the rolls of court, to the use and behoof of Mary Barber, widow, and her heirs. And hereupon the aforesaid Mary comes, in her own person, and seeks to be admitted to the aforesaid tenements,

To which Mary, indeed, the lord of the aforesaid manor, through his aforesaid under-steward, granted seisin thereof by rod,

To have and to hold to the aforesaid Mary and her heirs, at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor, by copy of the rolls of court, by the rent and services formerly due and of right accustomed in respect thereof.

And she gives to the lord, as a fine, according to the custom etc.

Fine for the same 6d Thomas Weller, Steward

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, April 2014*

The property was purchased from George Petley (gentleman, died 1705) and George Hooper (a lawyer, or more accurately, a scrivener).

The names Petley, Hooper, Weller and Skeffington (and Children which appears on later Barber documents) denote important and wealthy families in Tonbridge society. George Petley, George Hooper, Thomas Weller (and a Richard Roots,



Thomas Roots and William Roots – possible family connections to Mary) were at some time all Wardens of the Town Lands of Tonbridge, administering lands that had been gifted to the town. Some served as churchwardens – Francis Skeffington in 1678 and George Petley in 1682. They also made a number of charitable bequests to the people of Tonbridge as documented in Hasted.<sup>148</sup>

Although Mary was not of the same class as these people (who would have been regarded as gentry) she was still an independent, property owning yeoman/husbandman's widow. Her husband Thomas Barber came from a line that had shown loyalty to the lord of the manor and had occupied responsible positions within the manor and the church. One feels that this loyalty was perhaps returned to her and that she may also have been well connected via her own family (the Rootes). Of particular importance though would have been her husband's connection to the Weller family, who had been stewards to the lord of the manor in Rotherfield and had been under-stewards at Datchurst (Hilden) manor since 1671.<sup>149</sup>

Further information confirming Mary's purchase of the cottage survives in the records of the Overseers of the Poor who were responsible for the administration of poor relief such as money, food and clothing as part of the Poor Law system. The law required two Overseers to be elected every Easter, and churchwardens or landowners were often selected. The Tonbridge Overseers of the Poor Accounts (i.e. their expenses) for the period Easter 1691 to Easter 1692 include the following:<sup>150</sup> *Item paid for quit rent for the house sold to Wid Barber 1s 0d*. Quit rent is an annual payment to the manor in lieu of services due to the manor. This entry throws up a question – why was the parish paying the quit rent for this house before it was sold to Mary Barber? Usually it was the individuals who held the property from the manor who paid, and not the parish. It suggests that the parish may have rented the property before it was sold to Mary for use in housing the poor. Their accounts show they rented a number of properties for this purpose and were responsible for the expenses. Mary is unlikely to have been receiving parish relief herself given her income from the Drapers property in Rotherfield and that she was able to spend money improving the property after acquiring it.

A receipt for the improvements made in 1692 has survived and is said to read:<sup>151</sup>

March 19th 1692: Day work dun for the widow barber in Hildenborrow for

148 Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, Vol V (1798), pp. 196-255.

149 Appointment by Robt., Earl of Leicester, of Thos. Weller, gent. of Tunbridge, Kent, as Understeward of Honor of Otford. Manors of Penshurst Halemore, Hundred of Somerden with Kingsborough & Halborough, & Manor of Datchurst & Hilderborough. Signed by Earl of Leicester, 26 Sept 1671 (The National Archives: HA 519/96/66).

150 Overseers of the Poor Accounts Books for the parish of Tonbridge, Kent, England (KHL: P371/12/1-4).

151 Kay Cope and Joan Dash, *This is Hildenborough from A-Z*, Hildenborough Parish Council, Revised 2007, p. 35.

whighting the old house William Dudson 2 days

Will Dudson 2 days

£ 0 - 4 - 0

£ 0 - 2 - 8

March 24th: Day for making the great oven and hanging the furnace and building the flew

William Dudson 4 days

Will Dudson 4 days

£ 0 - 8 - 0

£ 0 - 5 - 4

June 27th: Day for plaiserer and whighting the walls of the old house and beame filling and meaning the wall of the barn

William Dudson 2 days and 3 quarters

Will Dudson 2 days and 3 quarters

For building a stack of chimneys of 4 fiors [fires/flues?]

£ 0 - 5 - 6

£ 0 - 3 - 8

£ 2 - 10 - 0

The original document for this receipt has not been found despite extensive searching. However, there is no reason to doubt its authenticity. Cope and Dash (2007) state that this refers to Marden Cottages, now known as the Old House, a 15th century Grade II\* listed property located on Philpots Lane at the intersection with Nizels Lane.<sup>152</sup> However, research has proved that Mary Barber did not purchase Mardens and that this connection is therefore incorrect.<sup>153, 154</sup>

The location of the property Mary purchased was identified by following the change of ownership through the Datchurst manorial records from 1691 to an entry on 2 September 1862 when Edward Peckham is admitted to the property presumably as heir to Thomas Peckham, the previous owner. The Tonbridge tithe map of 1838 identified the plot of land owned and occupied by Thomas Peckham, a wheelwright, as plot 652, just over one acre in size (1 acre, 1 rod and 8 perches). The location is shown in Fig. 39.

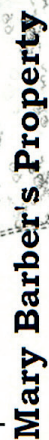
The property has been sub-divided in modern times but the house survives at

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152 Webpage *English Heritage* "<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1363156>"

153 Geoffrey Barber, *History of the Old House (Originally Marden's Farm) in Hildenborough, Kent*, 2014 (Tonbridge Library).

154 Author's Note: In September 2014 I happened to find William Dudson's will and probate documents for sale on the Ebay on-line auction site and purchased them for GBP £32.50. The will was made 7 March 1732/33 and probate was granted to his wife Patience on 29 March 1733 by the Archdeaconry Court of Rochester. The will states that his occupation was bricklayer and that he had a 19 acre farm at Upper Cage Green, Tonbridge. The documents will be donated to the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone.



**Fig. 39** In 1691 Widow Mary Barber purchased the property across the road from the “Old Half Moon Inn”, shown here on the 1866-1869 Ordinance Survey map (6 Inches to 1 Mile). *Crown Copyright: OS Kent Sheet L, 1:10560, Published 1871*





Fig. 39a Mary Barber's house as it looks today at 99 Tonbridge Road, Hildenborough.

99 Tonbridge Road, Hildenborough and is a Grade II listed building known as Woodside Cottage (Fig. 39a.).<sup>155</sup> See Appendix III for more photographs.

Mary's ongoing ownership of the property can be traced in the records of the Tonbridge Overseers of the Poor whose task was to levy a poor rate (tax) on the property owners and distribute it to the poor. The rating assessment of 14 Apr 1692 is the first to include the property owned by "Widdow Barber" and she is rated to pay 1s/6d. As the rate was 1s/- (shilling) per £1 of rental value, her property must have been worth £1/10s per year in rent which is typical for a house and consistent with her one acre property.<sup>156</sup>

The Tonbridge Overseers of the Poor rating assessments of 16 April 1695 indicate that Mary was occupying another property called "*Mr Danvers*" as well as her own house. In the assessments of 7 November 1695 and 21 December 1696 she is mentioned as the occupier of "*Mr Danvers and Mr Richardson's land*" but by 6 June 1697 that land is no longer being used by her as it is recorded as "*Mr Danvers and Mr Richardson's for land last used by Widow Barber*". These would be lands surrounding or close to her property. With her sons Richard and Thomas now adults, she doubtlessly had the capacity to farm additional land. We know that Richard eventually had his own farm in Hildenborough (probably as a tenant farmer using Mary's property as his home) and Thomas became a malster in Tonbridge.<sup>157</sup>

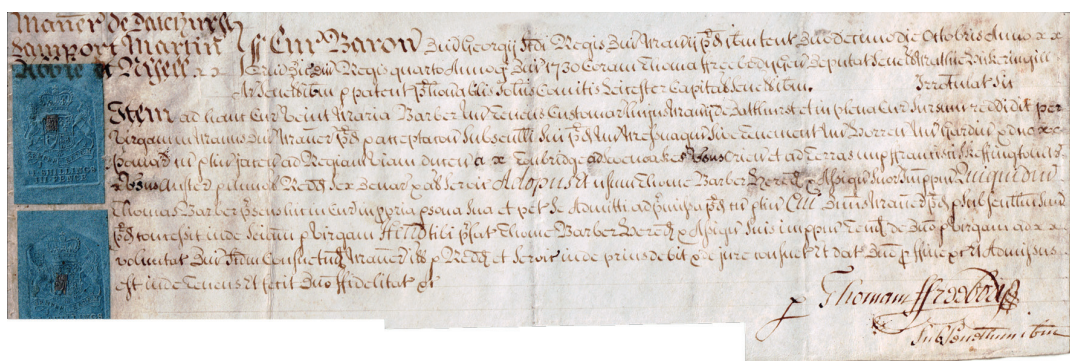
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<sup>155</sup> Webpage *English Heritage* "<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1070433>"

<sup>156</sup> Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent, England (KHLIC: P371/12/1-4).

<sup>157</sup> Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent, England (KHLIC: P371/12/1-4).





**Fig. 40** Copy from the manorial court rolls recording the transfer of the Hildenborough property from Mary Barber to her son Thomas, 13 October 1730. *Tonbridge Library*

On 13 October 1730, two years before her death, Mary transferred her house in Hildenborough to her surviving son Thomas (Richard had died in 1722) and this is documented in the court rolls for the manors of Datchurst, Lamport, Martin Abbey and Nizells, 1718-1884. An original copy, possibly Mary's own copy, is held at the Tonbridge library and is transcribed below (Fig. 40). The house was ultimately held within the Barber family until 1801.<sup>158, 159</sup>

Manor of Datchurst  
Lamport Martin  
Abbie and Nisell

At the Court Baron of our Lord King George the Second, Lord of the aforesaid Manor, held in the same place on the twelfth day of October in the fourth year of the reign of our Lord the said King, and in the year of our Lord 1730, Before Thomas Freebody, gentleman, Deputy Steward of Matthew Hickeringill, esquire, Steward in the same place by the patent of the Honourable John, Earl of Leicester, Chief Steward in the same place, It is enrolled thus;

Item to this Court came Mary Barber, a customary tenant of this manor of Datchurst, and in full court surrendered by rod, into the hands of the lord of the aforesaid manor, by the acceptance of his aforesaid under-steward, One messuage or tenement, one barn, one garden and two orchards, with the appurtenances, lying on the highway leading from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks towards the east, and with the lands late of Francis Skeffington esquire towards the south, held by an annual rent of six pence and other services, To the use and behoof of Thomas Barber, his heirs and assigns for ever. Which Thomas Barber, indeed, is present here in Court in his own person, and seeks to be admitted to the aforesaid premises, with the appurtenances, To whom the lord of the aforesaid manor, through his aforesaid under-

<sup>158</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHLC: U55 M378).

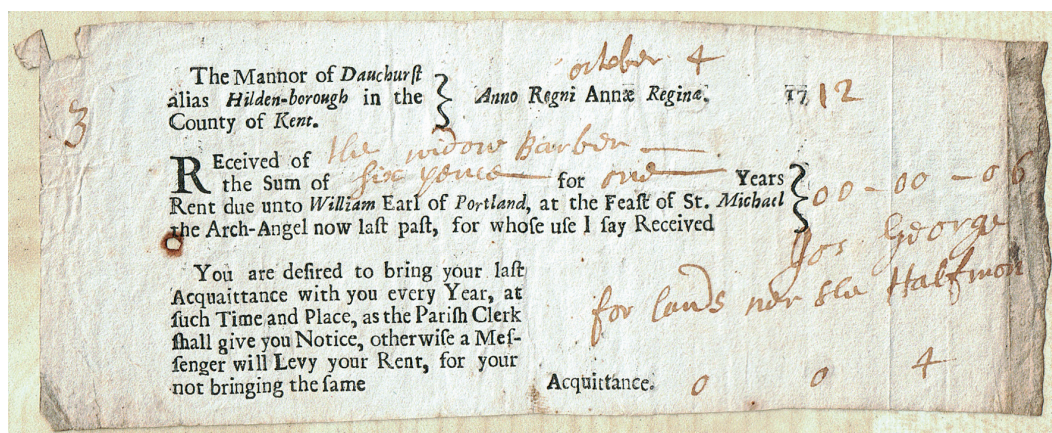
<sup>159</sup> Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

steward, granted seisin thereof by rod,  
 To have to you [in error for “him”], the aforementioned Thomas Barber, his  
 heirs and assigns for ever,  
 To hold of the lord, by rod, at the will of the lord, according to the custom  
 of that manor, by the rent and services formerly due and of right accustomed  
 in respect thereof.  
 And he gives to the lord, as a fine, etc.  
 And he is admitted as tenant thereof.  
 And he makes fealty to the lord etc.  
 By Thomas Freebody

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, April 2014*

The description of the property in the above court roll mentions a “*yearly rent of 6d*” which is in fact called a Quit Rent and is payable to the lord of the manor. Two receipts for Quit Rent paid by Mary Barber survive – one for 1712 and another for 1717 – and one of these is shown in Fig. 41. The receipt states: “*for lands near the Halfmoon*” referring to the Half Moon Inn which still operates today.<sup>160</sup>

The Widow Mary Barber was buried on 4 May 1732 at Tonbridge, Kent. She would have been about 85 years old.



**Fig. 41** Quit Rent receipt for 6d paid by Widow Barber, dated 4 October 1712. *Tonbridge Library*

<sup>160</sup> Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

## Richard Barber c1673-1722 & Margaret Wigzell 1688-c1750

**Richard Barber**, b. c1673, bur. 2 Jun 1722 at Tonbridge, Kent  
 +**Margaret Wigzell**, bap. 18 Jul 1688 at Kemsing, Kent, m. 18 Nov 1712 at Kemsing  
 — **Thomas Barber**, bap. 8 Sep 1713 at Tonbridge, bur. 17 Dec 1754 at Tonbridge  
   + **Elizabeth Waite**, bap. 14 Feb 1715/16 at Leigh, Kent, bur. 13 Oct 1798 at Tonbridge  
     — **Thomas Barber**, bap. 23 Nov 1750 at Tonbridge, bur. c1751  
     — **Thomas Barber**, bap. 20 Oct 1752 at Tonbridge, bur. 10 Aug 1821 at Tonbridge  
 — **Elizabeth Barber**, bap. 31 Oct 1714 at Tonbridge  
 — **Richard Barber**, bap. 9 May 1716 at Tonbridge, bur. 26 Dec 1786 at Tonbridge  
   + **Elizabeth Louff/Luffe**, bap. 4 Jun 1730 at Leigh, m. 30 Jan 1751  
     at Shipbourne, Kent  
     — **Mary Barber**, bap. 17 Apr 1752 at Leigh  
     — **Richard Barber**, bap. 26 Apr 1754 at Leigh  
     — **Thomas Barber**, bap. 14 Dec 1755 at Leigh  
     — **John Barber**, bap. 30 Apr 1758 at Leigh, bur. 18 Sep 1837 at Tonbridge  
     — **Richard Barber**, bap. 26 Apr 1760 at Leigh  
     — **Stephen Barber**, bap. 1762 at Leigh  
     — **Margaret Barber**, bap. 26 Feb 1764 at Leigh  
     — **William Barber**, bap. 22 Feb 1767 at Leigh  
     — **Bette Barber**, bap. 9 Apr 1769 at Leigh  
     — **Sarah Barber**, bap. 18 Nov 1770 at Leigh  
 — **Martha Barber**, bap. 28 May 1718 at Tonbridge, bur. 16 May 1721 at Tonbridge  
 — **Margaret Barber**, bap. 7 Feb 1721 at Tonbridge  
 — **Mary Barber**, bap. 14 Feb 1718/19 at Kemsing  
 + **Francis Grassum**



Richard Barber was baptised circa 1673. It is possible that he was baptised in Chevening where his parents were married as there is a gap in the Chevening parish register from 1651 to 1685 which would explain why his baptism has not been found. However, he is mentioned in his father's will of 1683 and so his parents were able to be identified.<sup>161</sup>

Richard would have been about 10 years old when his father died in 1683. He continued to live in Hildenborough with his widowed mother, Mary Barber, and his younger brother Thomas and his sister Elizabeth.

At about 39 years of age, on 18 November 1712, he married Margaret Wigzell, daughter of William and Elizabeth Wigzell at Kemsing, Kent.<sup>162, 163</sup>

<sup>161</sup> Will of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, England, 28 Oct 1683, proved 14 Dec 1683 (KHL: DRa/PW4).

<sup>162</sup> Index to West Kent Marriages, 1538-1812, privately compiled, Sydney Smith, 59 Friar Road, Orpington Kent BR5 2BW, England.

<sup>163</sup> Transcript of the Parish Register of Kemsing, Kent, England, 1561-1812 (KHL: P205).

The Tonbridge Overseers of the Poor rate assessment of 13 May 1713 shows that Richard Barber had a property in Hilden (near Tonbridge) rated at £1/16s/-. As the rate was assessed at 2s/- per £1 of rental value it meant that the property was worth £18 a year in rent which would indicate a farm. The rate assessments do not tell us if the properties were owned or leased but this would most likely have been leased. The property was probably a collection of farm lands surrounding his mother Mary's cottage in Hilden which also had about one acre of land. Mary had previously leased other lands such as "*Mr Danver's*" and "*Mr Danver's and Mr Richardson's lands*" and Richard was probably doing the same but perhaps on a bigger scale.<sup>164</sup>

Richard was buried on 2 June 1722 at Tonbridge, Kent, aged about 50 years, with his eldest child Thomas only nine years old.<sup>165</sup> The burial entry says "*Aff received 5*" meaning that an affidavit was received on June 5th stating that Richard was wrapped in wool for his burial. An act had been passed in 1678 making it compulsory for all corpses to be buried in a shroud made of wool, with an affidavit having to be made (and recorded in the parish register) that this had been done. This was intended to support the wool industry.<sup>166</sup>

The Tonbridge Overseers of the Poor rate assessment of 31 May 1728 shows that Richard's property was then held by his Widow [Margaret] Barber and rated at £2/19s/- (assessed at 4s/- in the £1 giving a rental value of £14/15s/-). In 1730 she is rated for Foxbush and Reeds Land (Foxbush is very close to Mary Barber's property – see map in Fig. 39). These properties were held by Margaret until at least 1746 but were no longer in her name in 1751 when Edward London is listed as the new occupier of Foxbush. We know from the will of the uncle Thomas Barber written in May 1749 that Margaret's son Richard was "*of Foxbush*" so it is a fair assumption that he farmed at Foxbush with his widowed mother and that they lived in the house on the one acre property Mary Barber purchased in 1691 while his older brother Thomas worked in Tonbridge Town as a malster with their uncle Thomas. The uncle Thomas's death in 1749 seems to have prompted significant change in the family including the marriages of the brothers Thomas Barber to Elizabeth Waite in 1749 and Richard Barber to Elizabeth Louff [Luffe] in 1751. It is possible that their mother, the widow Margaret Barber, had died earlier as she is not mentioned in the will.<sup>167, 168</sup>

In 1749 Thomas inherited the 1 acre property in Hildenborough from his uncle and consequently his brother Richard appears to have moved to the nearby parish of Leigh where he and his wife farmed and had a large family. He had only received £10 from his uncle's will, perhaps indicating that he had received

164 Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent (KHL: P371/12/1-4).

165 Transcript of the Parish Register of Tonbridge, Kent, England, 1547-1730 (KHL: TR 2451/20).

166 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England (ESRO: PAR 465).

167 Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent (KHL: P371/12/1-4).

168 Webpage: *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org/>), source film number 1866581.



assistance earlier. Some information about Richard and Elizabeth's descendants (incomplete) is shown below and includes a branch that emigrated to New Zealand c1920:

**Richard Barber**, bap. 9 May 1716 at Tonbridge, Kent, bur. 26 Dec 1786 at Tonbridge  
 +**Elizabeth Luffe**, bap. 4 Jun 1730 at Leigh, Kent m. 30 Jan 1751 at Shipbourne, Kent

- **Mary Barber**, bap. 17 Apr 1752 at Leigh
- **Richard Barber**, bap. 26 Apr 1754 at Leigh
- **Thomas Barber**, bap. 14 Dec 1755 at Leigh
- **John Barber**, bap. 30 Apr 1758 at Leigh, bur. 18 Sep 1837 at Tonbridge
- **Richard Barber**, bap. 26 Apr 1760 at Leigh
- **Stephen Barber**, bap. 1762 at Leigh
- + **Eliza (--?--)**, m. c1790 at Leigh
  - **Richard Barber**, bap. 5 Dec 1790 at Leigh
  - + **Elizabeth (--?--)**, bap. 1796 at Sevenoaks, Kent m. c1820 at Kent
    - **Sarah Barber**, bap. 5 Aug 1821 at Sevenoaks
    - **Stephen Barber**, bap. 4 May 1823 at Sevenoaks
    - + **Elizabeth Waite**, b. c1823 at Sevenoaks, m. 1 Jul 1854 at Lewisham, London
    - **Barbara Barber**, bap. 24 May 1828 at Sevenoaks
    - **William Barber**, bap. 6 Jun 1830 at Sevenoaks
    - **Thomas Barber**, bap. 24 Mar 1833 at Sevenoaks
    - **Barnaby Barber**, bap. 27 Jul 1835 at Sevenoaks, d. 1903 at Strood, Kent
    - + **Sabina Keturah Simmons**, b. c1836 at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, m. 1859 at N. Aylsford, Kent, d. 1891
    - **William Richard Barber**, b. 1860 at Frindsbury, Kent
    - **Arthur Barnaby Barber**, b. 1862 at Frindsbury, d. 1909 at Croydon, Surrey
    - **Edith Amy Barber**, b. 2 Apr 1865 at Barming, Kent, d. Apr 1865 at Barming
    - **Florence Louisa Barber**, b. 1866 at Barming, d. 1956
  - **Lydia Barber**, bap. 8 Jul 1838 at Sevenoaks, d. 1889 at Sevenoaks
  - + **Edwin Read**, b. c1831 Sevenoaks Weald, Kent, m. 1859 Bermondsey, London, d. 22 Jun 1906 Sevenoaks
    - **Minnie Read**, b. 23 Jan 1860 at Sevenoaks Weald, d. 17 Nov 1921 at Maidstone, Kent
    - **William Francis Read**, b. 1862 at Sevenoaks Weald, bur. 17 Jun 1935 at Christchurch, New Zealand
    - **Rose Emily Read**, b. c1868 at Sevenoaks Weald, bur. 15 Nov 1911 at Sevenoaks
    - **Thomas Read**, b. c1871 at Sevenoaks Weald
    - **John Read**, b. c1874 at Sevenoaks Weald, bur. 21 Feb 1947 at Sevenoaks
    - **Harry Read**, b. c1877 at Sevenoaks Weald, d. 1929
    - **Arthur Read**, b. c1878 at Sevenoaks Weald

*continued overleaf*

*continued from previous page*

- Stephen Barber**, bap. 11 Nov 1792 at Leigh, Kent, d. 1876 at Sevenoaks
- +**Ann Warner**, bap. 26 May 1793 Penshurst, Kent m. 26 Nov 1814 Shipbourne,
  - bur. 25 Aug 1832 Sevenoaks
  - Eliza Barber**, bap. 20 Oct 1816 at Penshurst
  - Stephen Barber**, b. 1819 at Penshurst
  - Ann Barber**, bap. 23 Dec 1821 at Penshurst
- +**Elizabeth Gasson**, bap. 7 Oct 1810 at Chiddingstone, Kent m. 25 Dec 1835 at Plaxtol, d. 1886 at Sevenoaks
  - Barbara Barber**, b. 1840 at Leigh
  - Emma Barber**, b. 1842 at Sevenoaks
  - Frank Barber**, b. 1844 at Sevenoaks
  - +**Martha Ann Jarvis**, b. c1846 at Stansted, Kent, m. 1867 at Malling, Kent
    - Ellen Barber**, b. c1869 at Chevening, Kent
    - Frank Barber**, b. 1871 at Chevening
    - Harry Barber**, b. c1874 at Sevenoaks
    - Kate Barber**, b. 1875 at Sevenoaks
    - Emma Barber**, b. c1878 at Sevenoaks
  - Ellen Barber**, b. 1849 at Sevenoaks
- Martha Barber**, bap. 22 Jan 1797 at Leigh
- Margaret Barber**, bap. 26 Feb 1764 at Leigh
- William Barber**, bap. 22 Feb 1767 at Leigh
- Bette Barber**, bap. 9 Apr 1769 at Leigh
- Sarah Barber**, bap. 18 Nov 1770 at Leigh



Their uncle Thomas appears to have remained close and supportive after their father's death in 1722. As uncle Thomas was the eldest surviving son of Mary Barber he had inherited all the family property which included Draper's in Sussex and his mother's cottage in Hildenborough. He never married and in his will of 1749 he left all his property to Thomas, the eldest son of Richard and Margaret, while leaving an annuity to his sister Elizabeth and sums of money to Richard and other nephews and nieces. He seems to have played a critical role in the family.

## Thomas Barber – The Uncle 1675-1749

Thomas Barber was baptised on 12 May 1675 at Tonbridge in Kent, the son of Thomas Barber and Mary Rootes.<sup>169</sup> He was their second son and never married.

Thomas became a malster and appears to have learnt his trade from John Meopham, a malster who is recorded as the previous occupier of the malt-house that Thomas came to lease and eventually own in Tonbridge Town. Malt is commonly barley grain that has been germinated by soaking in water and then halted by drying with hot air. This generates the enzymes necessary to convert the grain's starch into sugars, and a malster is the expert person responsible for this process. Malted grain is primarily used to make beer and Thomas probably became a supplier to a brewery.<sup>170, 171</sup>

Thomas's mother, Mary Barber, would probably have arranged an apprenticeship for him with John Meopham. John was also one of the witnesses to Thomas's father's will in 1683 indicating that he would have known the family well. Thomas was the younger son and so an apprenticeship would have been an appropriate means of securing his future given that his older brother Richard would inherit the family property (and who consequently took up farming in Hildenborough). An apprenticeship would have bound the young Thomas to John Meopham for five to seven years from the age of about 14 years becoming an extra worker in his household and subject to his authority. Mary would probably have seen this as a positive given that he no longer had his father. In the 17th century the payment of a fee or "premium" became usual in order to obtain an apprenticeship. In a list of Cambridgeshire apprenticeships c1730 the fee for a malster was typically £5 and the term of the apprenticeship seven years. Apprenticeships were a popular means of securing employment for sons and daughters, even amongst the gentry. The fee for top professional apprenticeships could be substantial and Elizabeth Weller of Tonbridge (who married John Austen in 1693 but became a widow in 1704) paid £140 to apprentice her son as an attorney in London in 1714 after he had finished his education at Sevenoaks School.<sup>172</sup>

In the 1710 Overseers of the Poor assessments Thomas is rated for property in Tonbridge Town comprising a house and malt-house and also for a property called Finches. We know that he was leasing these properties (and was not the owner) as a contract exists showing that he later purchased them in 1743. It would appear that Thomas lived in the house in Tonbridge and was in business for himself working in

169 Webpage: *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org/>), source film number 0845142, 0845143.

170 C.W. Chalklin, *The Rural Economy of a Kentish Wealden Parish 1650-1750* in *The Agricultural History Review* Vol. X, 1962 Part 1 (Tonbridge Library, C151760132), see Table A for John Meopham, malster, 22 May 1704.

171 Webpage: *Wikipedia* (<http://en.wikipedia.org/>) "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malthouse>."

172 Margaret Wilson, *Jane Austen's family and Tonbridge*, The Jane Austen Society (2001), pp. 14-17

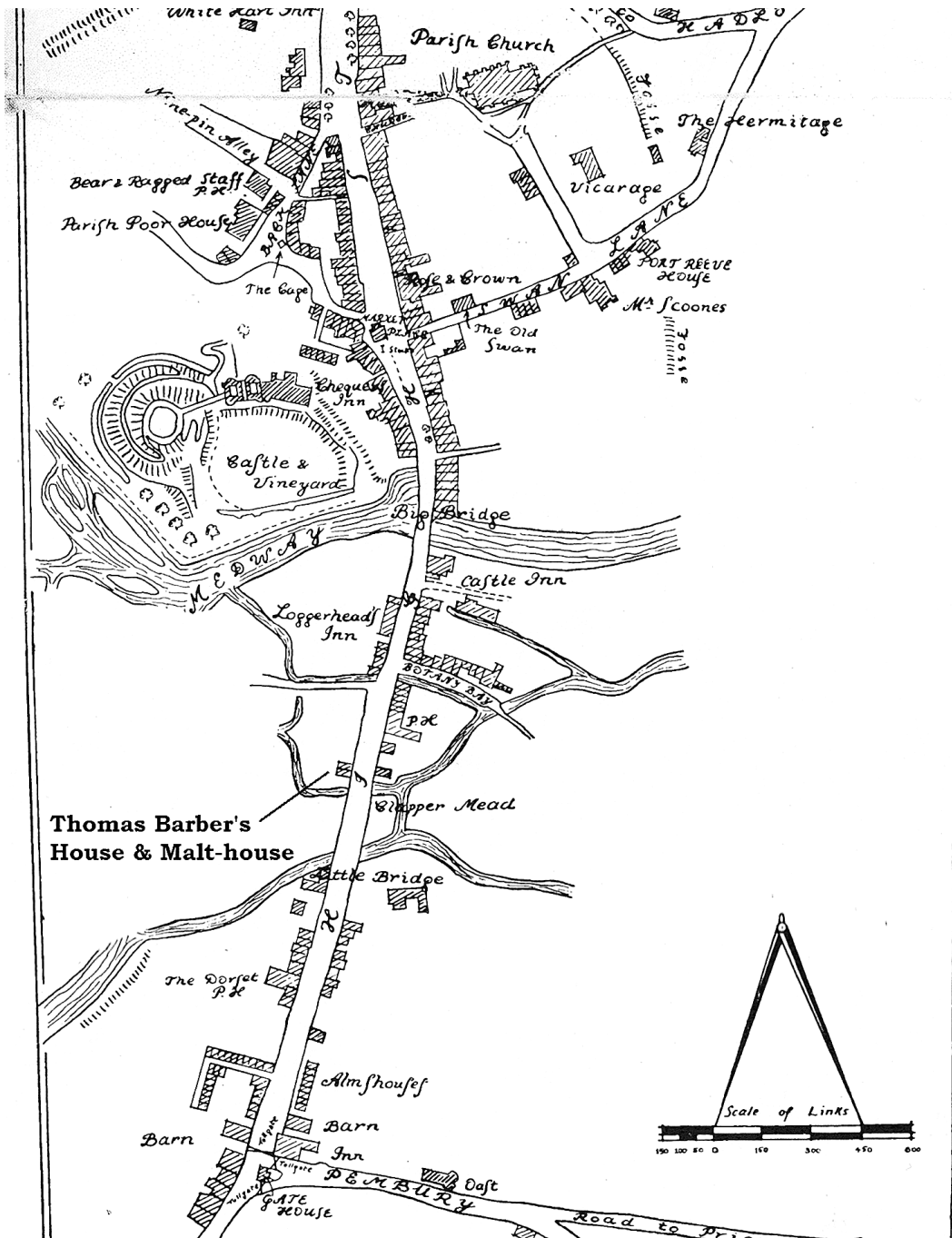


Fig. 42 Thomas Barber's house and malt-house as shown on a portion of Neve's Map of Tunbridge circa 1750. This is based on the view that the property owned by Mary Barber on the 1838 tithe map is the remnants of this site.

Arthur H. Neve in *The Tonbridge of Yesterday* 1933 with annotation by G. Barber



the malt-house. The Finches property (about four acres) and later another property called Whites may have been used to grow hops or barley.<sup>173</sup>

The town site property was described in the indenture of 1743 thus:<sup>174</sup>

one messuage or tenement wherein John Meopham lately dwelt and wherein Thomas Barber the uncle now dwells and the barn, stable, malthouse, outhouses, edifices and buildings and the closes, yards, backsides, gardens and ground with the appurtenances thereto belonging or appertaining situate lying and being at or near the Lower end of Tonbridge town in Tonbridge aforesaid on the west side of the town and now in the tenure or occupation of the said Thomas Barber the uncle or his assigns, bounding and abutting to the High Street leading through the said town towards the east, to the tenement and backside formerly Elizabeth Walters towards the south and to the lands of Robert Weller Esquire towards the west and north.

A later indenture estimates it to be one acre “more or less” in area.<sup>175</sup>

A remnant of this property can be identified in the 1838 Tonbridge tithe award as being in High St and belonging to Mary Barber, i.e. plot 1411 comprising four houses and yards in an area of 37 perches (i.e. just under a quarter of an acre) – see details and map in a later chapter. The location on the tithe map shows it to be almost opposite the Bull Tavern, which no longer exists. Arthur Neve’s part conjectural map of Tonbridge c1750 does show some buildings in this location (Fig. 42).<sup>176</sup>

On 11 December 1716, the town site property and the property Finches were sold to George Hooper, with Thomas remaining as the tenant. A summary of the indenture is:<sup>177</sup>

Conveyance by Mr. James Tolputt of Milton next Sittingbourne, gent, to George Hooper the elder of Tonbridge, gent, one messuage or tenement wherein John Meopham late dwelt and Thomas Barber now dwells, and the barn, stable, malthouse, outhouses, edifices and buildings and the closes, yards, backsides, gardens and ground now in the occupation of Thomas Barber, and also one piece or parcel of land arable and pasture called or

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173 Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent (KHL: P371/12/1-4).

174 Woodgate Family Documents, Deeds and maps, family papers, mainly of the Somerhill estate 1570-1919. Finches (4 acres) at Lodge Oak and other land, Tonbridge, 1716-1776 (KHL: U1109 T17, Woodgate Family).

175 Indenture, Release of Dower, Elizabeth Barber to Thomas Barber, 29 Jan 1776 (KHL: U1109 T17, Woodgate Family Papers).

176 Arthur H. Neve, *The Tonbridge of Yesterday*, Tonbridge Free Press Ltd, 1933. (Tonbridge Library: C130397684).

177 Woodgate Family, Documents, Deeds and maps, family papers, mainly of the Somerhill estate (Woodgate family) 1570-1919. Finches (4 acres) at Lodge Oak and other land, Tonbridge, 1716-1776 (KHL: U1109 T17).

known by the name of Finches, containing by estimation four acres. Price £165. 11 December 1716.

The involvement of George Hooper is of interest and worth noting as the name appears on many of the Tonbridge documents, including the will of Edmund Latter which was made in 1654 in Tonbridge. According to Saggars (2011) the Hoopers were a family of lawyers whose founder was Nicholas Hooper, born c1550 and vicar of Shipbourne, who offered his services in writing wills, charters and indentures for his congregation and so began a business that was taken over by his son John and was then followed by four generations of George Hoopers of Tonbridge, the last one dying without issue c1759. They were one of the wealthy gentry families whose names were prominent in Tonbridge in the 18th century.<sup>178</sup>

A full abstract of the 1716 indenture is given below:<sup>179</sup>

Indenture 11 December 1716 between James Tolputt of Milton next Sittingbourne, gent, of the one part, and George Hooper the elder of Tonbridge, gent, of the other part. James Tolputt in consideration of £165 paid to him by George Hooper at or before the ensealing and delivery thereof in hand well and truly paid he [James Tolputt] acquits, releases and discharges to George Hooper and his executors, administrators and assigns, and by these presents hath granted, bargained, alienated, enfeoffed, demised, released etc. and forever quitclaims and confirms to the said George Hooper, now being in the actual and real possession of the messuage, lands and tenements hereafter in these presents mentioned, with the appurtenances, by force and virtue of an indenture of bargain and sale made, or herein mentioned to be made, by James Tolputt to George Hooper bearing date the day before the date of these presents by virtue of the statute for transferring uses into possession, and to the heirs and assigns of George Hooper, one messuage or tenement wherein John Meopham late dwelt and Thomas Barber now dwells and the barn, stable, malthouse, outhouses, edifices and buildings and the closes, yards, backsides, gardens and ground with the appurtenances thereto belonging or appertaining situate, lying and being at or near the Lower End of Tonbridge town in Tonbridge aforesaid on the west side of the town and now in the tenure or occupation of the said Thomas Barber or his assigns, bounding and abutting to the High Street leading through the said town towards the east, to the tenement and backside of Elizabeth Walter towards the south and to the lands of Mr. Thomas Weller towards the west and north, and also one piece or parcel of land arable and pasture (now being divided into two severalls or parcels) called or known by the name of Finches, or howsoever otherwise called or

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178 J.G. Saggars, *The Life and Times of Warners Solicitors Jester Books* (2011), (Tonbridge Library C153934974), p.2.

179 Woodgate Family, Documents, Deeds and maps, family papers, mainly of the Somerhill estate (Woodgate family) 1570-1919. Finches (4 acres) at Lodge Oak and other land, Tonbridge, 1716-1776 (KHL: U1109 T17).

known, containing by estimation four acres more or less lying in Tonbridge aforesaid late also in the tenure or occupation of the said John Meopham and now of the said Thomas Barber or his assigns, together with the lane thereunto leading and belonging, bounding and abutting to the lands called Whichenden now of David Polhill Esq. towards the east, north and south and to the lands of Jeffery Amherst Esq. towards the west, together with all ways, waters, commons, pastures, feedings, timber, trees, hedges, fences, rents, easements, profits and commodities whatsoever to the said messuage, lands, tenements and premises and every and any part thereof belonging or appertaining, or reputed or taken as part thereof, and also the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders and all the estate, right, title, interest and possession of the said premises and all deeds, evidences or writings touching and concerning the same, to have and to hold the said messuage etc. to George Hooper and his heirs and assigns to the only proper use of George Hooper etc. for ever of the chief Lord or Lords of the fee or fees of whom the same are holden by the rents and services to them due and James Tolputt says that he stands siesed of the demised premises and is solely, lawfully and rightly seised of and in the same granted messuages, lands, tenements and premises and every part of them, and appurtenances, in absolute and indeafeazible estate of inheritance to him and his heirs in fee simple and hath power and authority to grant, bargain, sell, enfeof and confirm the same to George Hooper and his heirs and assigns in manner and form as aforesaid. Signed James Tolputt.

*Abstract by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, 2013*

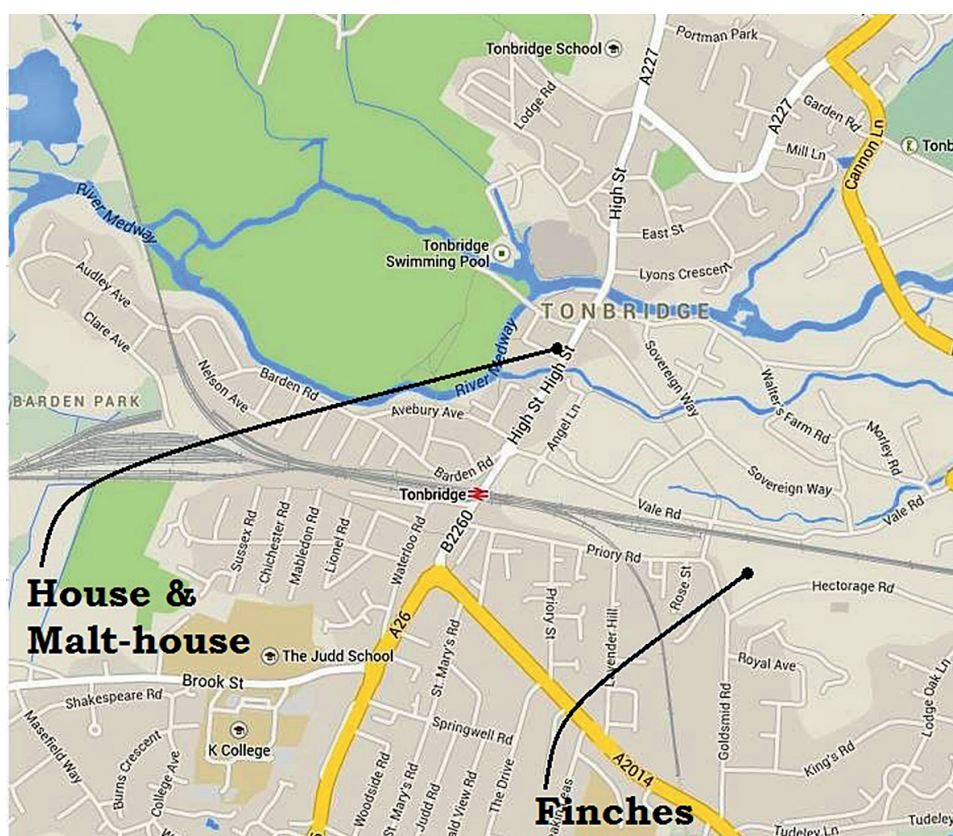
The location of Finches has been determined as plot 1744 on the 1838 tithe map for Tonbridge (Fig. 43) which indicated that the field was used for growing hops. The location was revealed when land known as Finches was bought by James Alexander in 1820 and became part of Relfs Farm, a farm that bordered on Lodge Oak Farm. We know that Finches was four acres and the tithe map shows only one four-acre plot on Relfs farm and that is plot 1744. In addition, various deeds relating to Finches refer to “the right of road, lane or way leading to Wickenden” and there is a lane that runs alongside plot 1744 which still exists today. The tithe map of 1838 was made as the railway was preparing to come to Tonbridge and it shows the future rail track. The necessary railway land is designated by the number of the original piece of land followed by the letter ‘a’. The corner of plot 1744 was needed for the railway and it is designated as 1744a. It was necessary to accommodate the existing lane and right of way when the railway was built, resulting in a bridge being erected over the lane. Its origin is still evident today as the road is narrow and can accommodate only one car at a time. Nowadays the road joins Vale Road but a foot path still exists which continues to Tonbridge Town (Fig. 44).

The name Finches passed out of use after it ceased to be a self-contained parcel of land and became merely another field of Relfs farm. Today the area is built up and known as Strawberry Vale.



Fig. 43 The property Finches shown as Plot 1744 on the 1838 tithe map of Tonbridge, Kent. The tithe map indicated that it was used for growing hops.  
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**Fig. 44** The property Finches and the Tonbridge Town house & malt-house on a modern map of Tonbridge. *Map Data © 2014 Google*

In 1730, two years before her death, Mary Barber transferred her house in Hildenborough to Thomas, now her eldest surviving son. At the Datchurst, Lamport, Martin Abbey and Nizells manorial court held on 13 October 1730:<sup>180</sup>

presented that Mary Barber, a customary tenant of the manor, was seised [ie had possession] of a messuage or tenement, a garden and two orchards lying to the Kings highway from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks to the east and to the land late of Francis Skeffington to the south, at the yearly rent of 6d, and she devised [gave] the same to Thomas Barber [her son, 1675-1749].

This is the entry from the actual court roll, while the copy that was given to Mary (with slightly different wording) was previously shown in Fig. 40. She may have also transferred the freehold Drapers property in Rotherfield to him at this time. In any event, he would have inherited Drapers after her death in 1732.

<sup>180</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).



Fig. 45 Manorial record of the Court Baron held in 1731 for the manor of Datchurst, Lampport, Martin Abbey and Nizells (in Latin) showing Thomas Barber as a member of the homage and jury. Kent History and Library Centre

In 1731 Thomas Barber is recorded as a member of the homage and jury at a Datchurst, Lampport, Martin Abbey and Nizells manorial Court Baron showing that as a property holder his obligations included “suit” (attendance) at the lord’s court (Fig. 45). It is interesting to see that there were also two people from the Children family as later generations of Barbers had financial dealings with George Children (c1742-1818) who was one of the founders of the Tonbridge Bank.

On 31 October 1734 Thomas was fined for not appearing at the Datchurst manorial court:<sup>181</sup>

Thomas Barber, George Childrens, George Childrens [*sic*], Richard Childrens Esquire, Elizabeth Childrens, John Childrens, Richard Childrens, .... William Heath, .... Thomas Heath, ..... John Waite, .... are freehold tenants of the manor and ought to have appeared here this day to do suit and service but made default, therefore each of them is severally amerced 6d each.

The description of Thomas as a freehold tenant is confusing, as Mary Barber’s cottage is clearly held by copyhold tenure, not freehold. Did Thomas own other property in the area? It is also interesting to see Thomas Barber and John Waite listed, as Thomas’s nephew and John’s daughter were to marry in 1749.

<sup>181</sup> Court Book, manors of Datchurst, Lampport, Martin Abbey and Nizells, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).

In the Overseers of the Poor rating assessments of 1733, 1736 and 1739, Thomas was rated for himself (this would be the house and malt-house in the town) and for Finches, Whites and other lands. We know that he had occupied (leased) Finches since 1710 and purchased it in 1743 but nothing is known of Whites. The “other lands” probably refers to his mother’s house in Hildenborough.<sup>182</sup>

The 1734 Poll for the Knights of the Shire, Kent (a list of people entitled to vote) lists no Barber's in Tonbridge indicating that Thomas did not qualify. The basic qualification was to be male and to own freehold land worth at least 40 shillings (£2) p.a. in rent. However he is recorded in the poll for Rotherfield, Sussex as “*Thomas Barber, abode Tunbridge*” which was based on his ownership of the freehold Drapers property.

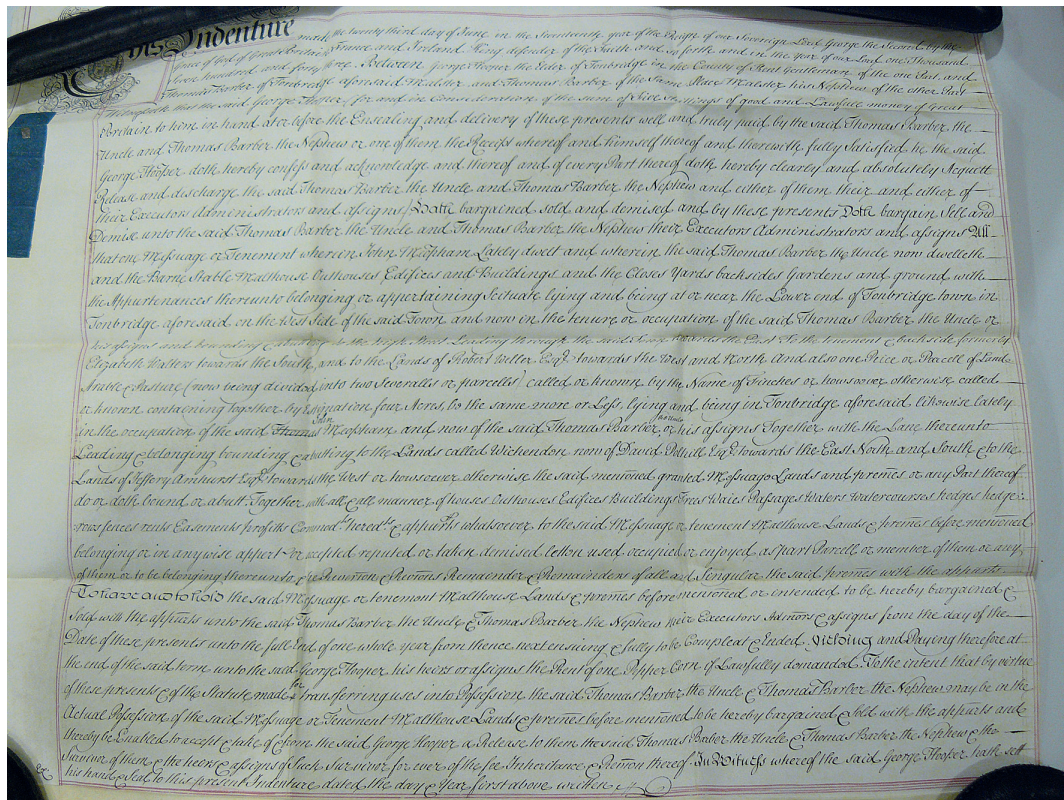
On 23 June 1743 George Hooper senior sold the Tonbridge Town properties (comprising the house, malt-house, etc.) and Finches to Thomas Barber and his nephew for £300 by a conveyance method known as lease and release (Fig. 46). The nephew Thomas was thus set up to carry on the business after his uncle.<sup>183</sup>

[The Lease] INDENTURE 23 June 1743 between George Hooper of Tonbridge, gent, of the one part, and Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, malster, and Thomas Barber of the same place, malster, his nephew, of the other part. George Hooper for 5s to him in hand at or before the ensealing and delivery of these presents paid by Thomas Barber the uncle and Thomas Barber the nephew, or one of them, releases and discharges to Thomas Barber and Thomas Barber, the nephew, and their executors, administrators and assigns, and by these presents does bargain, sell and demise to Thomas Barber the uncle and Thomas Barber the nephew, and their executors, administrators and assigns, **one messuage or tenement wherein John Meopham lately dwelt and wherein Thomas Barber the uncle now dwells and the barn, stable, malthouse, outhouses, edifices and buildings and the closes, yards, backsides, gardens and ground with the appurtenances thereto belonging or appertaining situate lying and being at or near the Lower end of Tonbridge town** in Tonbridge aforesaid on the west side of the town and now in the tenure or occupation of the said Thomas Barber the uncle or his assigns, bounding and abutting to the High Street leading through the said town towards the east, to the tenement and backside formerly Elizabth Walters towards the south and to the lands of Robert Weller Esquire towards the west and north, and **also one piece or parcel of land arable and pasture (now being divided into two severalls or parcels) called or known by the name of Finches**, or howsoever otherwise called or known, containing by estimation four acres more or less lying in

182 Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent, England (KHL: P371/12/1-4).

183 Woodgate Family Documents, Deeds and maps, family papers, mainly of the Somerhill estate 1570-1919. Finches (4 acres) at Lodge Oak and other land, Tonbridge, 1716-1776 (KHL: U1109 T17, Woodgate Family).





**Fig. 46** The 1743 lease of the Tonbridge Town dwelling and malt-house, and the Finches property, for a year by Thomas Barber (the uncle) and Thomas Barber (the nephew). This was followed by an indenture of release with receipt on back by George Hooper from Thomas Barber the uncle and Thomas Barber the nephew, both malsters, for £300.

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Tonbridge aforesaid likewise lately in the occupation of the said [Thomas – crossed out] John Meopham and now of the said Thomas Barber the uncle or his assigns, together with the lane thereunto leading and belonging, bounding and abutting to the lands called Wichenden [possibly should be Wickenden] now of David Polhill Esq. towards the east, north and south and to the lands of Jeffery Amhurst Esq. towards the west, together with all manner of houses, outhouses, edifices, buildings, trees, ways, passages, waters, watercourses, hedges, hedgerows, fences, rents, easements, profits, commodities, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said messuage etc. belonging or appertaining, to have and to hold the said messuage etc. to Thomas Barber the uncle and Thomas Barber the nephew, and their executors, administrators and assigns from the date of these presents to the end of one year after, paying at the end of the said term the rent of one pepper corn if lawfully demanded, to the intent that Thomas Barber the uncle and Thomas Barber the nephew may be in actual possession of the said messuage etc.



(Also the corresponding indenture of sale, [the Release] very large, with receipt on back by George Hooper from Thomas Barber the uncle and Thomas Barber the nephew, both malsters, for £300.)

*Abstract by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, March 2013*

Thomas Barber was buried on 28 May 1749 at Tonbridge, Kent aged 74 years. He left a will made on 16 May 1749 suggesting he knew his death was imminent.<sup>184</sup>

In the Name of God Amen I **Thomas Barber of Tonbridge in the County of Kent** Malster being sick and weak in Body but of sound and disposing Mind Memory and Understanding praised be God for the same Do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following First and Principally I commend my Soule into the hands of Almighty God my Creator hoping for Salvation through the Merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer and my Body I commit to the Earth decently to be Interred and Buryed at the Discretion of my Executor hereafter named Item I give devise and bequeath unto **my Sister Elizabeth Jeffery** one Annuity or Yearly Rent charge of forty shillings a Year for and during the Term of her natural Life to be paid quarterly out of the Messuage or Tenement and Land now in my own Occupation situate in Tonbridge aforesaid The first payment to begin and be made on the Quarter day which shall next happen after my decease And if it shall happen the Yearly Rent Charge or sum of forty shillings shall be behind or unpaid in part or in the whole by the space of Ten days after either or any of the Quarter Days on which the same ought to be paid That it shall and may be Lawfull to and for the said **Elizabeth Jeffery** and her Assigns into the said Messuage or Tenement Lands and Premises to Enter and to make Distress and Distresses for the same and the Distress and Distresses there taken to have take load and drive and Carry away and dispose of untill the said Annuity or Rent charge of Forty Shillings and all Arrears thereof together with all Costs and Charges in recovering the same shall be fully paid and satisfied Item I give and bequeath unto **my Neices Elizabeth Barber Mary the now Wife of Francis Grassum of Lewisham** in the said County of Kent Innholder **Richard Barber of Foxbush my Nephew** and **Margarett Barber my Neice** the sum of Ten pounds apeice of Lawfull Money of Great Britain to be paid to them respectively within one Year after my Decease by my Executor hereafter named Item I give and devise unto **Ann the now Wife of William Wingate of Tonbridge** aforesaid Yeoman the sum of Thirty pounds to be paid her within one Year after my Decease by my Executor hereafter named Item I give and bequeath unto **William Wingate John Wingate Thomas Wingate Sarah Wingate and Ann Wingate the five Children of the said William Wingate by Ann his Wife** the sum of Ten pounds apeice to be paid immediately after my decease to the said **William Wingate** their father for their respective Uses

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184 Will of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, 16 May 1749, pr. 16 Jun 1749 (The National Archives: PROB 11/770/346).

by my Executor hereafter named and that the Receipt of the said **William Wingate** their father shall be a full discharge to my Executor hereafter named for the same And I do hereby direct that the said **William Wingate** their father shall pay and be accountable for the said several sums of Ten pounds apeice by me bequeathed to the said **William Wingate John Wingate Thomas Wingate Sarah Wingate and Ann Wingate** to them respectively when they or either of them shall respectively attain to their Age or Ages of Twenty one Years Item I give and bequeath unto **my Nephew John Jeffery Son of my Sister Elizabeth Jeffery** the sum of Ten pounds to be paid to him within twelve Months after my decease by my Executor hereafter named Item I give devise and bequeath unto **my Nephew Thomas Barber** his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns All and every my Messuages Lands tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever and wheresoever *in the Counties of Kent and Sussex* and elsewhere in the Kingdom of Great Britain And all and singular my personal Estate ready Money Securities for Money Household Goods and Cattle and all other my Goods and Chattles whatsoever and wheresoever not before herein by me devised bequeathed and disposed of my Debts Legacies and Funeral Expences being first paid and satisfied Item I do hereby make ordain constitute and appoint my said **Nephew Thomas Barber** sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at anytime heretofore made In Witness whereof I the said **Thomas Barber** the Testator have to this my last Will and Testament contained in two sheets of paper sett my hand and Seal this sixteenth day of May in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty nine **Tho Barber** Signed sealed published and declared by the said Testator in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request have sett our hands as Witnesses hereunto the several Erasements being made between the third fourth fifth and sixth lines in the last sheet **Geo Alchin Samll Burton Thos Landon**

This Will was proved at London the Sixteenth day of June in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty nine before the Worshipfull **Robert Chapman** Doctor of Laws Surrogate of the Right Worshipfull **John Bettesworth** also Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the Oath of **Thomas Barber** the sole Executor named in the said Will to whom Administration was granted of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the deceased being first sworn duly to Administer.

*Transcribed by Rosie Ansell of SFHG, November 2012 for Geoffrey Barber*

His estate was probated on 16 June 1749 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, London.

The will mentions no wife or children leaving one to conclude that he never married. He obviously had a very close relationship with his sister Elizabeth, who married William Jeffery, as he was very generous to her and her children in his will (especially daughter Ann who married William Wingate). It is possible

that Elizabeth was a widow at the time the will was written as her husband is not mentioned and this could be another reason for his generosity. She may have even lived with Thomas at his house in Tonbridge.

Given the early death of his father in 1683 and his elder brother Richard in 1722, it is clear that Thomas played an important role in the family. One is left with the impression of a hard worker who prospered and cared for his family, ensuring an orderly transfer on his death. The family must have been very grateful to him.

All the property owned by Thomas (the malt-house in Tonbridge, Finches, the cottage in Hildenborough, etc.) was left to his nephew, Thomas Barber, who was the eldest son of his brother Richard Barber and wife Margaret. Their second son, Richard Barber, was left £10 possibly indicating that he had inherited by other means either through assistance in establishing himself earlier or by inheriting from his mother who we know was involved in farming at Foxbush in Hildenborough. Richard married Elizabeth Luffe on 30 January 1751 at Shipbourne and had a family of ten children, all baptised at the neighbouring village of Leigh. There is a conveyance of Nizell's Estate in Tonbridge and Leigh on 14 November 1848 showing lands occupied by a Richard Barber, likely a descendant of Richard and Elizabeth.<sup>185</sup>

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185 Woodgate Family Documents, Deeds and maps, family papers, mainly of the Somerhill estate 1570-1919 (KHL: U 1109, Woodgate Family).

## Thomas Barber 1713-1754 & Elizabeth Waite 1716-1798

- Thomas Barber**, bap. 8 Sep 1713 at Tonbridge, bur. 17 Dec 1754 at Tonbridge  
 + **Elizabeth Waite**, bap. 14 Feb 1715/16 at Leigh, Kent bur. 13 Oct 1798 at Tonbridge
- **Thomas Barber**, bap. 23 Nov 1750 at Tonbridge, bur. c1751
  - **Thomas Barber**, bap. 20 Oct 1752 at Tonbridge, bur. 10 Aug 1821 at Tonbridge
  - + **Mary Lipscomb**, bap. 8 Dec 1756 at Tonbridge, d. 5 Dec 1841 Tonbridge,  
 bur. 11 Dec 1841 Tonbridge
  - **Thomas Barber**, bap. 29 Mar 1775 at Tonbridge, d. 2 Jul 1857 at Keymer, Sussex,  
 MI at Brighton St Nicholas, Sussex
  - **Robert Barber**, bap. 7 Feb 1777 at Tonbridge, d. 21 Nov 1839 at Tonbridge,  
 bur. 29 Nov 1839
  - **Elizabeth Barber**, bap. 28 Mar 1781 at Tonbridge
  - **Sarah Ann Barber**, bap. 7 May 1783 Tonbridge, d. 1864 Guildford, Surrey  
 bur. 24 Nov 1864 Pirbright, Surrey
  - **Jane Barber**, b. c1786 at Ightham, Kent, d. 1866 at Brighton, Sussex
  - **Margaret Barber**, b. 6 Mar 1788 at Ightham, Kent d. 1875 at Tunbridge Wells
  - **William Barber**, b. 5 Oct 1789 at Ightham, Kent
  - **George Barber**, b. 9 Sep 1791 at Ightham, bur. 27 Oct 1869 at Tunstall, Kent
  - **James Barber**, b. 3 Jun 1793 at Ightham, bur. 13 Aug 1826 at Tonbridge
  - **Phoebe Barber**, bap. 27 Dec 1795 at Tonbridge, d. 27 Nov 1874  
 at St Pancras, London
  - **Samuel Nicholas Barber**, bap. 4 Nov 1798 at Tonbridge, d. 13 Dec 1845  
 at Deptford, Kent
  - **Eliza Barber**, bap. 19 Dec 1800 at Tonbridge



Thomas Barber was baptised on 8 September 1713 at Tonbridge, the eldest son of Richard Barber and Margaret Wigzell. He was only nine years old when his father died in 1722.

Thomas worked with his uncle Thomas and became a malster. He was 29 years old when in 1743 they together purchased a property (comprising a dwelling, malt-house, barn etc.) in Tonbridge Town and the four acre property Finches for £300. His uncle had occupied these properties and used them for his malting business since c1710. It is evident that they were in business together and the purchase of the property set up Thomas Barber the nephew to inherit from his unmarried uncle, which he did in 1749.

Thomas was the executor and main beneficiary of his uncle's will. He received all the "*Messuages, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever and wheresoever in the Counties of Kent and Sussex*" which would have included the town site property, Finches, Whites, the house in Hildenborough and the Drapers property in Rotherfield.<sup>186</sup>

<sup>186</sup> Will of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, 16 May 1749, pr. 16 Jun 1749 (TNA: PROB 11/770/346).



At the Datchurst manorial court held on 12 October 1749 he was admitted to the Hildenborough property (Fig 47).<sup>187</sup>

The Homage aforesaid upon their oaths present that Thomas Barber a customary tenant of the Manor of Datchurst dyed [died] seized [possessed] of a customary messuage, garden and two orchards lying by the King's highway to the east and lands by then held of [blank] Wickenden and [blank] Whitaker to the south, held by the said manor by copy of court roll by will of the lord according to the customs of the said manor and the yearly rent of six pence. And that he Devised the same to Thomas Barber.

This is the property previously owned by his uncle and before that his grandmother, the widow Mary Barber.

Just months after receiving his inheritance, at the age of 36 years, Thomas Barber married Elizabeth Waite, daughter of John Waite and Elizabeth Low, on 12 November 1749 at Morden College, Charlton, Kent.<sup>188</sup> Although the marriage was at Charlton, about 25 miles from Tonbridge, it contained the important information that Thomas was “*of Tunbridge*”. People from all parts of the County were married at Morden College and it was similar to Gretna Green, which was known as a place where many people eloped to be married. Morden College was founded and richly endowed in 1700 by Sir John Morden for wholesale traders, master merchants and manufacturers of good character who, from misfortune or accident, became distressed. Sir John Morden, in founding the College, decreed that it should be run so that all the residents should live as comfortable as possible and “that having lived like gentlemen they might so die”. It still survives today at 19 St Germans Place, Blackheath, London and continues to help the elderly suffering financial hardship.

The marriage states that Elizabeth is “*of Lee*”. Lee is a parish very close to Charlton but there are no Waites in the Lee parish registers so it is almost certain that “Leigh” was intended, as it is adjacent to Tonbridge and has many Waite families.

The Tonbridge Overseers of the Poor rating assessment of 2 August 1754 indicates that Thomas Barber occupied properties called Finches, Whites, other lands in Tonbridge Town area (the malt-house, etc.) and Edmund's in Southborough West.<sup>189</sup>

The 1754 Poll for the Knights of the Shire, Kent (a list of people entitled to vote) records Thomas Barber owning freehold land in Tonbridge consisting of a house

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187 Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).

188 Index to West Kent Marriages, 1538-1812, privately compiled, Sydney Smith, 59 Friar Road, Orpington Kent BR5 2BW, England.

189 Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent, England (KHL: P371/12/1-4).

Manor of Datchurst Che Court Baron of our Sovereign  
Lampport Martin :  
Abbey and Nisell :  
1749  
The Court Baron of our Sovereign  
Lord King George the Second Lord of  
the said Manor there holden the  
Twelfth day of October in the Twenty  
third Year of the Reign of our said  
Lord the King and in the Year of our  
Lord 1749. Before Sidney Nassard -  
Smyle Esq. Deputy Steward?  
Essoined  
Homage { John Children =  
Richard Children } Sworn  
Arthur Children  
The Homage aforesaid upon the Oath present  
that Thomas Barber a Customary Tenant of the Manor  
of Datchurst Dyed Seised of a Customary Mesuage  
Garden and two Orchards lying to the Highway  
from Tonbridge to Seven Oaks towards the East

19/69  
Lands of Wickenden and Whitaker to  
the South held of the said Manor by Copy of Court  
Roll at the Will of the Lord according to the Custom  
of the said Manor and the Yearly Rent of six pence  
And that he Devised the same to Thomas Barber.

Fig. 47 Extracts from the court roll for the manor of Datchurst, Lampport, Martin Abbey and Nisell, 12 Oct 1749 recording admittance of Thomas Barber to the Hildenborough property.

Kent History and Library Centre

and land which he occupied. He was the only Barber listed for Tonbridge.<sup>190</sup>

Thomas Barber was buried on 17 December 1754 at Tonbridge, Kent. He was 41 years old. His wife Elizabeth was left with a two-year-old boy, another Thomas.<sup>191</sup>

The grant of administration on Thomas's estate indicates that he died intestate (i.e. without a will). His estate was probated on 4 Feb 1755 at Consistory Court of Rochester, Kent:<sup>192</sup>

On the Fourth day power was Granted to Elizabeth Barber widow the Relict of Thomas Barber late of the Parish of Tonbridge in the County of Kent Deceased to Administer the Goods & chattels of the said Deceased being first sworn duly to Administer.

It required her to exhibit an inventory of his goods and chattels in the court on or before the last day of July next ensuing (1755) and also to render an account of her administration to the court on or before the last day of January 1756.

Although Thomas died intestate, control of the properties passed to his widow. The Overseer's of the Poor rate assessments of 1756 and 1762 record them in her name. In 1776 she passed them to her son Thomas (at age 23 years) when she signed a "Release of Dower" to his benefit.<sup>193</sup> In return, Thomas agreed to pay his mother an annuity of £20 p.a.

Thomas's wife Elizabeth Waite was baptised at Leigh on 14 February 1715/16, daughter of John Waite and Elizabeth Low.<sup>194,195</sup>

Her father was a tenant farmer at Brights Farm (now called Great Hollenden Farm in Hildenborough) which was occupied by his father William Waite and then by John himself between 1688 and 1740. In 1726 John Waite also inherited Marden's Farm in nearby Philpot's Lane, Hildenborough from his mother's sister, Hannah Gilpin. This farm was occupied by the tenant William Latter and was sold c1740.<sup>196, 197</sup>

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190 Webpage: *Ancestry.co.uk* (<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>) "Ancestry.com. UK, Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538-1893 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012."

191 Transcript of the Parish Register of Tonbridge, Kent, England, 1547-1730 (KHLC: TR 2451/20).

192 Letters of administration of the estate of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, England, granted by the Archdeaconry Court of Rochester, 4 Feb 1755 (Tonbridge Library, TU1/T73, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

193 Indenture, Release of Dower, Elizabeth Barber to Thomas Barber, 29 Jan 1776 (KHLC: U1109 T17, Woodgate Family Papers).

194 Transcript of the Parish Register of Leigh, Kent, England, 1638-1812 (KHLC: TR 2322/41).

195 Webpage: *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org/>), source film number 992527.

196 Will of Hanna Gilpin of Sevenoaks, Kent, made 20 Jul 1724, proved 22 Apr 1726 (Lambeth Palace Library VH 96/4346 (original), VH 96/6/198 (copy for probate) and VH 98/8/34V (probate)).

197 Geoffrey Barber, *History of the Old House (Originally Marden's Farm) in Hildenborough, Kent*, 2014, (Tonbridge Library).

Lawrence Biddle's book *Leigh in Kent 1550-1900* mentions that the Waite family in Leigh was extensive and that being farmers they would have been leading members of their community. Starting with Edward and Anne Waite in the 1640's they "*created a dynasty of farmers and it is not surprising to find 8 headstones to their memory*" in the Leigh churchyard. Biddle states that "*nearly all the 18th century ones [headstones] record the families of tenant farmers – the only class that could afford such memorials*". Elizabeth would have been a good match for her husband and he would most likely have been well regarded as a prosperous malster with a number of properties in Tonbridge and land in Rotherfield. It is also clear from the manorial records that the two families would have known each other for some time.<sup>198</sup>

Elizabeth was 38 years old when she was widowed in 1754 and left with a two year old son. She took over the management of the properties Finches, Whites, the lands in Tonbridge Town and Edmund's in Southborough West, though by July 1762 she had given up using the property in Southborough and a Samuel Mills appears to have been using it.<sup>199</sup>

In 1758 Elizabeth attended the Datchurst manorial court and arranged for her son to be named heir to the Hildenborough property and later in 1764 he was formally admitted to the property with Elizabeth as guardian until he reached 21 years of age (see details next chapter).

On Friday the 19th of August 1763 a violent storm struck Kent which affected Elizabeth:<sup>200</sup>

... there happened in the parishes of Tunbridge, Speldwich, Penshurst, Pembury, Tudeley, Capel, Hadlow, Yalding, Hunton, Marden, Brenchley, East Peckham, West Peckham, Mereworth, East Malling, Watlingbury, Nettleshead, Teston, East Farleigh, West Farleigh, Barming, Loose, Maidstone, Boxley and Detling in the said County a most Dreadful and Violent Storm of Hail and Wind attended by (thunder?) and lightning which passed as a Tornado and with . . .ness through the Lands and grounds.

Although no specific details are given, the widow Elizabeth Barber is listed as one of many sufferers affected by this storm which:

in a very short time to beat cut down strip lay waste and destroy all or the greatest part of the corn grain hops fruit and other things then standing growing and being in and upon the said Lands and grounds of the said several sufferers. Total damage was estimated at Twelve Thousand seven

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198 Lawrence Biddle, *Leigh in Kent 1550 to 1900*, First Edition (1991) pp. 27,40,46.

199 Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent, (KHLc: P371/12/1-4).

200 LDS, Microfilm, LDS Film #1656380: West Kent Qtr Session 16 Feb 1764, Item2, pp. 97-99, (LDS Family History Centre Library)





**Fig. 48**  
The signature of Elizabeth Barber (née Waite) in 1776 showing that she could write.  
*Kent History and Library Centre*

hundred Ninety eight pounds seven shillings and three half pence and that all or the Greatest part of the said sufferers are tenants at rack Rents and are by their loss severally reduced to great Want and Distress.

The Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain was requested to grant to them “*his Majesty’s most Gracious Letters Patent and ... Great Britain to enable them to receive the contributions of ... people throughout such part of Great Britain*”.

In other freak weather events, a snowstorm on 31 December 1775 produced drifts 10 feet deep in Tonbridge. Later in 1783 a hot summer brings an “intolerable” plague of caterpillars!<sup>201</sup>

After Thomas’s death in 1754 Elizabeth had received her right under common law to one third of her husband’s property (or its money equivalent) and this was known as dower. Some twenty years later on 29th January 1776 Elizabeth released her dower to her 23 year old son Thomas for the nominal sum of 2 shillings. With Thomas coming of age and Elizabeth approaching her 60th birthday she must have thought it was an appropriate time to do this. The release document survives and has Elizabeth’s signature, showing that she could write (Figs. 48-50). It clearly mentions the Draper’s property in Sussex, Finches and Widow Mary Barber’s house then divided into two dwellings. The document reads:<sup>202</sup>

Indenture 29 January 1776 between Elizabeth Barber of Tonbridge, kent, widow, and relict of Thomas Barber late of the same place, malster, deceased, of the one part and Thomas Barber of Tonbridge aforesaid, son and heir of the said Thomas Barber deceased of the other part. Whereas the said Thomas Barber deceased was in his lifetime and at

201 Webpage: *Tonbridge History* (<http://www.tonbridgehistory.org.uk/>) Tonbridge Timeline page.

202 Indenture, Release of Dower, Elizabeth Barber to Mr. Thomas Barber, 29 January 1776 (KHL: U1109 T17, Woodgate Family Papers).

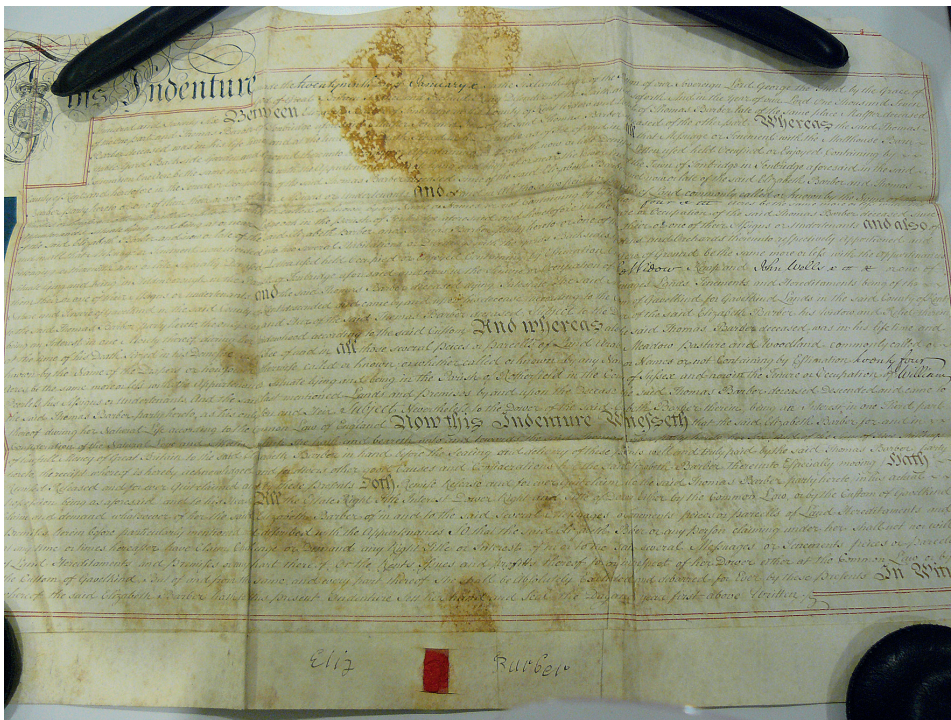


Fig. 49 Release of Dower from Elizabeth Barber to her son Thomas Barber,  
29 January 1776 - Page 1. Kent History and Library Centre

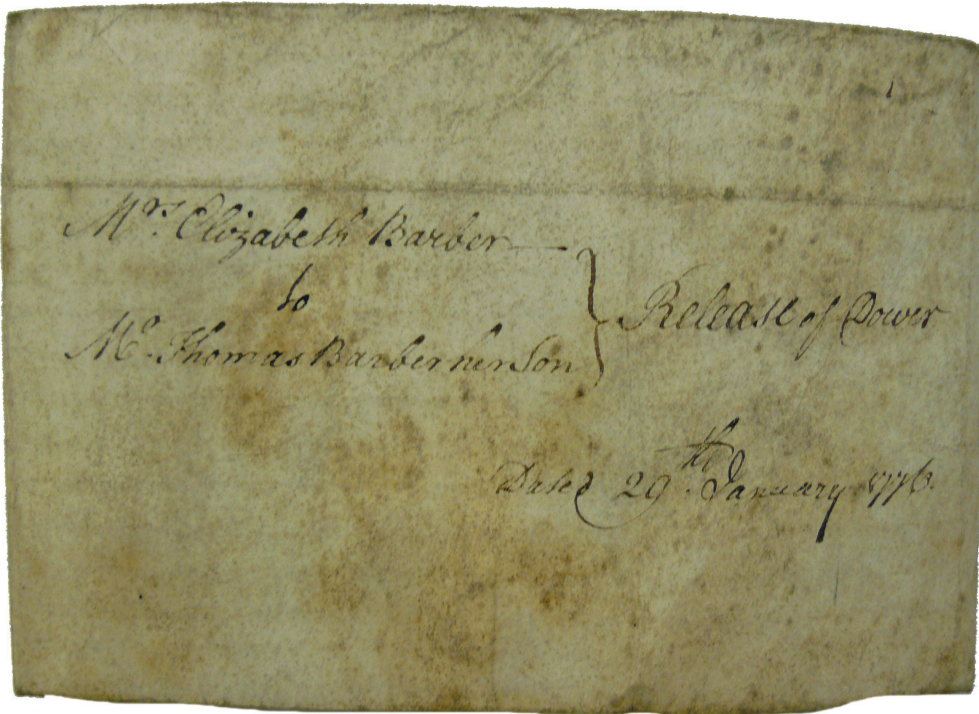
the time of his death seised in his demesne as of fee of and in all that messuage or tenement with the malthouse, barn, stable, yard, backside, garden and ground thereunto belonging or appertaining therewith now or late demised, letten, used, held, occupied or enjoyed containing by estimation one acre more or less, with appurtenances, lying at or near the lower end of the town of Tonbridge in Tonbridge aforesaid and heretofore in the tenure or occupation of the said Thomas Barber deceased, since of the said Elizabeth Barber and now or late of the said Elizabeth Barber and Thomas Barber, party hereto, or their or one of their assigns or undertenants, and those two pieces or parcels of land commonly called or known by the name of the Finches or howsoever called or known by containing by estimation four acres more or less, with its appurtenances, situated and being at or near Lodge end in the parish of Tonbridge heretofore in the tenure or occupation of the said Thomas Barber deceased, since of the said Elizabeth Barber and now or late of the said Elizabeth Barber and Thomas Barber, party hereto, or their or one of their assigns or undertenants, and also of and in all that messuage or tenement now divided into two several habitations or dwellings with the yards, backsides, gardens and orchards thereunto respectively apportioned and belonging or therewith now or late severally demised, letten, used, held, occupied or enjoyed containing by estimation one

[?] acre of ground more or less, with appurtenances, situated, lying and being in Hildenborough in Tonbridge aforesaid and now in the tenure or occupation of Widow Kemp and John Wells or one of them, their or one of their assigns or undertenants. The said Thomas Barber deceased dying intestate the said messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments being of the nature and tenure of gavelkind in the County of Kent descended and came by and upon his decease, according to the tenure of gavelkind for Gavelkind Lands in the County of Kent, to the said Thomas Barber, party hereto, the only son and heir of the said Thomas Barber deceased, subject to the dower of the said Elizabeth Barber, his widow and relict, therein, being an interest in one moiety thereof during her widowhood according to the said custom. And whereas also the said Thomas Barber deceased was in his lifetime and at the time of his death seised in his demesne as fee of and in those several pieces or parcels of land arable, meadow, pasture and woodland commonly called or known by the name of Drapers, or howsoever otherwise called or known by, containing by estimation 24 acres more or less, with appurtenances, situated in the parish of Rotherfield in Sussex now in the tenure or occupation of William Peerless, his assigns or undertenants, and the said last mentioned lands and premises by and upon the decease of the said Thomas Barber descended and came to the said Thomas Barber, party hereto, as his only son and heir subject to the dower of the said Elizabeth Barber, being an interest in one third part thereof during her natural life according to the Common Law of England. Now this indenture witnesses that the said Elizabeth Barber in consideration of the natural love and affection which she hath and beareth to and towards the said Thomas Barber, party hereto, her son, and of the sum of 2s of lawful money of Great Britan to the said Elizabeth Barber in hand before the sealing and delivery of these presents paid to her by the said Thomas Barber, party hereto, and for divers other good causes and considerations her the said Elizabeth Barber thereunto especially moving, hath remised, released and for ever quitclaimed to the said Thomas Barber, party hereto, in his actual possession and to his heirs all the estate, right, title, interest, dower, right and title of dower either by the Common Law or custom of gavelkind, claim and demand whatsoever of her the said Elizabeth Barber of and in the said several messuages, tenements, pieces or parcels of land, hereditaments and premises herein before mentioned and described, with their appurtenances, so the said Elizabeth Barber or any person claiming under her shall not nor will at any time hereafter have claim, challenge, or demand any right, title or interest of, in or to the said several messuages etc. or any part thereof or the rents, issues and profits thereof in respect of her dower either at the Common Law or by the custom of gavelkind but of and from the same and every part thereof she shall be absolutely excluded and debarred for ever by these presents.

[signed] Eliz Barber.

*Abstract by Gillian Rickard, March 2013, for Geoffrey Barber*





**Fig. 50** Release of Dower from Elizabeth Barber to her son Thomas Barber,  
29 January 1776 – Page 2. *Kent History and Library Centre*

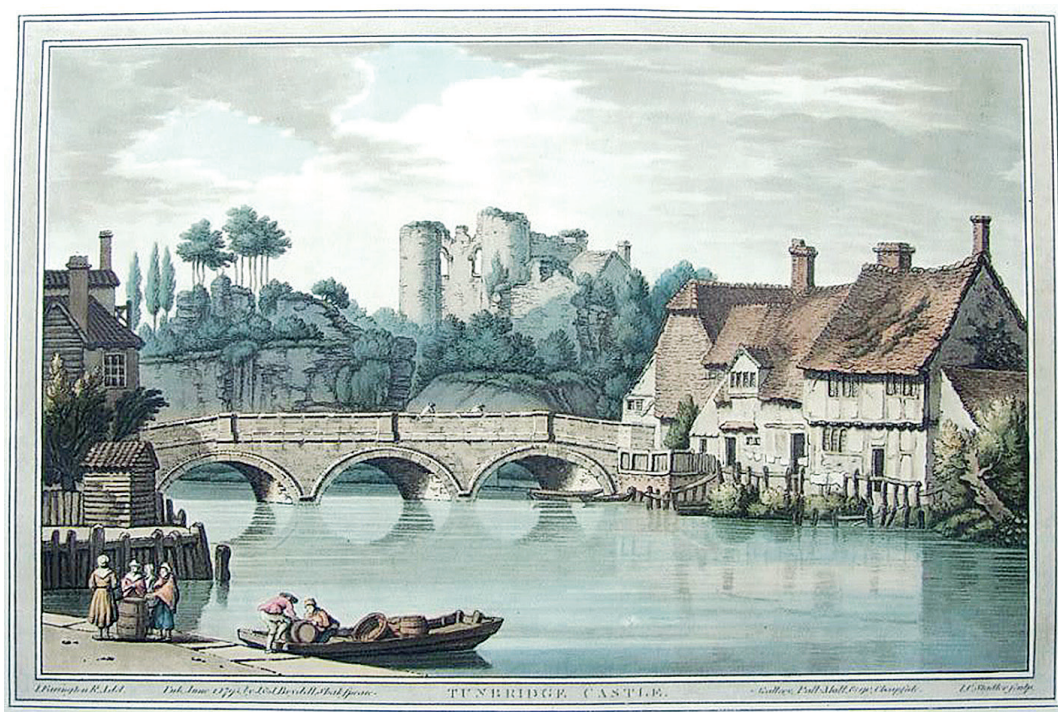
One day later, in a deed dated 30 January 1776, Thomas Barber agreed to pay his mother Elizabeth Barber, widow, a 20 pound annuity for life out of the properties he had inherited and on which Elizabeth had agreed to a release of dower. Although this deed has not been sighted, it is mentioned in a mortgage taken out on these properties in 1788. It is expressed as:<sup>203</sup>

One Annuity or yearly Rent Charge of Twenty pounds during her natural Life by virtue of one Indenture tripartite bearing date on or about the thirtieth day of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy six and made or expressed to be made between the said *Thomas Barber* party hereto of the first part the said *Elizabeth Barber* of the second part and *William Waite* of Tonbridge aforesaid yeoman of the third part.

This is similar to the arrangements made by his great grandfather, also a Thomas Barber, who paid an annuity of £11/5s p.a. to his mother in 1661/62 in Rotherfield in exchange for the use of properties that he would eventually inherit. This method of providing an income for widowed mothers was probably common practice over many generations in the family and shows the importance

<sup>203</sup> Indenture, Mortgage of Finches, Tonbridge Town Site Land and Hildenborough to George Children (KHLIC: U624/T20, Somerhill Estate Papers).





**Fig. 51** Tonbridge in 1795 showing the bridge over the river Medway and the ruined castle in the background. Tunbridge Castle: Engraved by Joseph Constantine Stadler, after a drawing by Joseph Farington. Published June 1795.

of property ownership in being able to secure that income. The mention of William Waite as a third party is interesting, as Elizabeth's maiden name was Waite and William is probably her elder brother. He would have acted as a trustee for Elizabeth in this matter.

A quit rent receipt book 1777-1788 for the manor of Tonbridge Town records quit rents paid by Widow Barber for "*her house*" (1s/- per year), for "*land called Finches*" (6d per year) and for "*late Chalklins*" (10d per year) over this period. Next to them was written "*T. Barber*" and "*Mr Barber*" indicating that he had taken over responsibility for these.<sup>204</sup>

In 1798, just a few months before she died, Elizabeth is recorded in the 1798 national land tax assessments as owning and occupying a property in Tonbridge Town which was assessed for 1/- tax. Her son Thomas also owned and occupied a property there which was assessed for 2/- as well as other property in Hilden and Barden, both just outside Tonbridge.<sup>205</sup>

204 Quit Rent Account Book, 1777-88, Manor of Tonbridge (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M1/19, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

205 Microfilm, UK Land Tax Redemptions, 1798, (The National Archives: IR23, Piece 38).

Elizabeth Barber (née Waite) was buried on 13 October 1798 at Tonbridge, Kent, aged 81 years.<sup>206</sup> Her estate was probated on 11 May 1808 at Consistory Court of Rochester, Kent.<sup>207</sup>

Administrations 1808: On the eleventh day of May power was granted to Thomas Barber the natural and lawful Son and sole next of kin of Elizabeth Barber late of the parish of Tonbridge in the County of Kent widow deceased to administer the goods chattels and credits of the said Deceased having been first sworn duly to administer. [Value of effects] Under £100.'

Thomas appears to have delayed applying for formal administration until May 1808. This would have been perfectly possible, as there was no time limit on such things. He was her only next of kin, so there was no-one else with an interest in her estate and he was probably informally administering it from before the time she died.

In 1805, after Elizabeth's death, there is an entry in the manor of Tonbridge quit rent receipts for "*Barber Thos for late Widow Barber 10d*" which is crossed out and two lines above is inserted "*Thos Beeching for late Barbers 10d*" indicating that Elizabeth's property had been sold or leased to Thomas Beeching.<sup>208</sup>

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206 Transcript of the Parish Register of Tonbridge, Kent, England, 1547-1730 (KHLC: TR 2451/20) "age 81 years."

207 Letters of administration of the estate of Elizabeth Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, England, granted by the Consistory Court of Rochester, 11 May 1808 (KHLC: DRb/Pa29).

208 Quit Rent Account Book, 1801-1812, Manor of Tonbridge (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M1/20, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

## Thomas Barber 1752-1822 & Mary Lipscombe 1756-1841

**Thomas Barber**, bap. 20 Oct 1752 at Tonbridge, bur. 10 Aug 1821 at Tonbridge  
**+Mary Lipscomb**, bap. 8 Dec 1756 at Tonbridge, d. 5 Dec 1841 at Tonbridge,  
 bur. 11 Dec 1841

— **Thomas Barber**, bap. 29 Mar 1775 at Tonbridge, d. 2 Jul 1857 at Keymer, Sussex,  
 bur. 8 Jul 1857, Mon. Inscr. at Brighton St Nicholas, Sussex

+ **Mary Lane**, b. c1769, m. 4 Feb 1802 at Brighton, d. 21 Jun 1841 Brighton,  
 bur. 26 Jun 1841, Mon. Inscr. at Brighton St Nicholas

— **Robert Barber**, b. 6 Jul 1802 at Brighton, d. 4 Feb 1867 at Brighton

— **Rebecca Barber**, b. 25 Nov 1805 at Brighton, d. 1886 at Brighton

— **Thomas Barber**, b. 15 Nov 1807 at Brighton, d. 14 Aug 1836  
 at Brighton, bur. 19 Aug 1836

— **Robert Barber**, bap. 7 Feb 1777 at Tonbridge, d. 21 Nov 1839 at Tonbridge,  
 bur. 29 Nov 1839

+ **Sarah Snashall**, bap. c1782, m. 11 Nov 1814 at Tonbridge, bur. 3 Jul 1829  
 at Tonbridge

— **Frances Barber**, bap. 16 Jul 1820 at Tonbridge

— **Elizabeth Barber**, bap. 28 Mar 1781 at Tonbridge

+ **George Gibbs**, m. 14 Oct 1804 at Hadlow, Kent, bur. 31 Dec 1830 at Hadlow, Kent

— **George Gibbs**, bap. 24 Mar 1805 at Hadlow

— **Sarah Ann Gibbs**, bap. 12 Mar 1807 at Tonbridge

— **Sarah Ann Barber**, bap. 7 May 1783 at Tonbridge, d. 1864 at Guildford, Surrey,  
 bur. 24 Nov 1864 Pirbright, Surrey

+ **Thomas Smith**, bap. 4 Jun 1780 at Brookland, Kent, m. 19 Aug 1800 at Hadlow,  
 d. 29 Nov 1854 Pirbright, Surrey

— **Sarah Ann Smith**, bap. 9 Nov 1800 at Tonbridge, d. 1858 at Sevenoaks, Kent

— **Stephen Henry Smith**, bap. 6 Feb 1803 at Hadlow, Kent, d. 21 Jan 1879  
 at Richmond, Wisconsin, USA

— **William Henry Smith**, bap. 17 Mar 1805 at Hadlow, bur. 24 May 1805  
 at Hadlow

— **Charles Henry Smith**, bap. 10 Aug 1806 at Hadlow

— **William Sidney Smith**, bap. 2 Oct 1808 at Hadlow, d. 1858 at Tonbridge

— **Lewis Henry Smith**, bap. 20 Dec 1810 at Hadlow

— **William Henry Smith**, bap. 2 Dec 1812 at Hadlow

— **Esther Smith**, bap. 15 Jun 1817 at Hadlow

— **Jane Barber**, b. c1786 at Ightham, Kent d. 1866 at Brighton, Sussex

— **Margaret Barber**, b. 6 Mar 1788 at Ightham, d. 1875 at Tunbridge Wells, Kent

+ **William Humphrey**, b. c1800 at Hadlow, m. 9 Jun 1822 at Hadlow,  
 d. Oct 1875 at Tonbridge

— **Marianne Humphrey**, bap. 18 Aug 1822 at Tonbridge, d. 1848 at Tonbridge

— **William Humphrey**, bap. 26 Aug 1824 at Hadlow

— **George Humphrey**, bap. 22 Oct 1826 at Hadlow, d. 1911 at Tonbridge

— **Thomas Humphrey**, bap. 19 Oct 1828 at Hadlow, Kent

— **James Humphrey**, bap. 16 Aug 1830 at Hadlow, d. 1906 at Dartford, Kent

▼ ▼ *continued overleaf*

*continued from previous page*

- **William Barber**, b. 5 Oct 1789 at Ightham, Kent
- **George Barber**, b. 9 Sep 1791 at Ightham, bur. 27 Oct 1869 at Tunstall, Kent
  - + **Sarah Forest**, b. c1796, m. 20 Jun 1812 at Ospringe, Kent bur. 24 Sep 1850 at Tunstall
  - **Charles Barber**, bap. 21 Aug 1813 at Ospringe, bur. 19 Mar 1868 at Tunstall
  - **George Barber**, bap. 4 Apr 1815 at Tunstall
  - **Mary Barber**, bap. 9 Feb 1817 at Tunstall, bur. 2 Apr 1821 at Tunstall
- **James Barber**, b. 3 Jun 1793 at Ightham, Kent, bur. 13 Aug 1826 at Tonbridge
  - + **Elizabeth Kiddell**, b. c1794, m. 2 Nov 1820 at Salehurst, Sussex
- **Phoebe Barber**, bap. 27 Dec 1795 at Tonbridge, d. 27 Nov 1874 at St Pancras Workhouse, London
  - + **Edward Burton**, b. 15 Mar 1792 at Bermondsey, London, m. 17 Oct 1819 at Bermondsey
  - **Caroline Eliza Burton**, bap. 16 Jul 1820 at Greenwich, Kent
  - **Phoebe Elizabeth Burton**, bap. 17 Oct 1821 at Greenwich
  - **Mary Ann Burton**, bap. 8 Sep 1823 at Greenwich
  - **Edward George Burton**, bap. 12 Sep 1824 at Greenwich
  - **George James Burton**, bap. 9 Jul 1826 at Greenwich
  - **Sarah Ann Burton**, b. 13 Jun 1828 at Greenwich, d. 15 Sep 1902 at USA or Canada
  - **Henry Burton**, bap. 3 Aug 1835 at Greenwich
  - **William Burton**, bap. 3 Aug 1835 at Greenwich
- **Samuel Nicholas Barber**, bap. 4 Nov 1798 at Tonbridge, d. 13 Dec 1845 at Deptford, Kent
  - + **Esther Walter Corbett**, bap. 3 Apr 1796 at Bromley, Kent, d. 1870 at Greenwich
  - **Mary Esther Barber**, b. 8 Jul 1821 at Woolwich, Kent, d. 26 Feb 1858 at Deptford, Kent
  - **Samuel Barber**, bap. 3 Aug 1823 at Charlton, Kent
  - **William Barber**, bap. 31 Jul 1825 at Charlton, Kent
- **Eliza Barber**, bap. 19 Dec 1800 at Tonbridge, Kent
  - + **William Love**, bap. 22 Dec 1793 at Watringbury, Kent, m. 31 Jan 1820 at Plaxtol, Kent, bur. 10 Aug 1834 at Watringbury
  - **Elizabeth (Betsy) Love**, bap. 11 Mar 1821 at Watringbury
  - **Sarah Love**, bap. 26 Feb 1826 at Watringbury
  - **Caroline Love**, bap. 21 Jun 1829 at West Farleigh, Kent, bur. 16 Nov 1867 at Borden
  - **William Love**, b. c1833 in Kent
  - **Robert Love**, bap. 28 Nov 1834 at West Farleigh, Kent



Thomas Barber was baptised on 20 October 1752 at Tonbridge, Kent, the son of Thomas Barber and Elizabeth Waite. His father died two years later in 1754.

On 19 October 1758 the Datchurst manorial court proclaimed that the infant Thomas was heir to the Hildenborough property held by his father (Fig. 52). Six years later, at the court held on 23 October 1764, the infant Thomas (that is, aged less than 21 years) came to the court with his mother Elizabeth as guardian and was admitted to the property (Fig. 53).<sup>209</sup>

<sup>209</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).



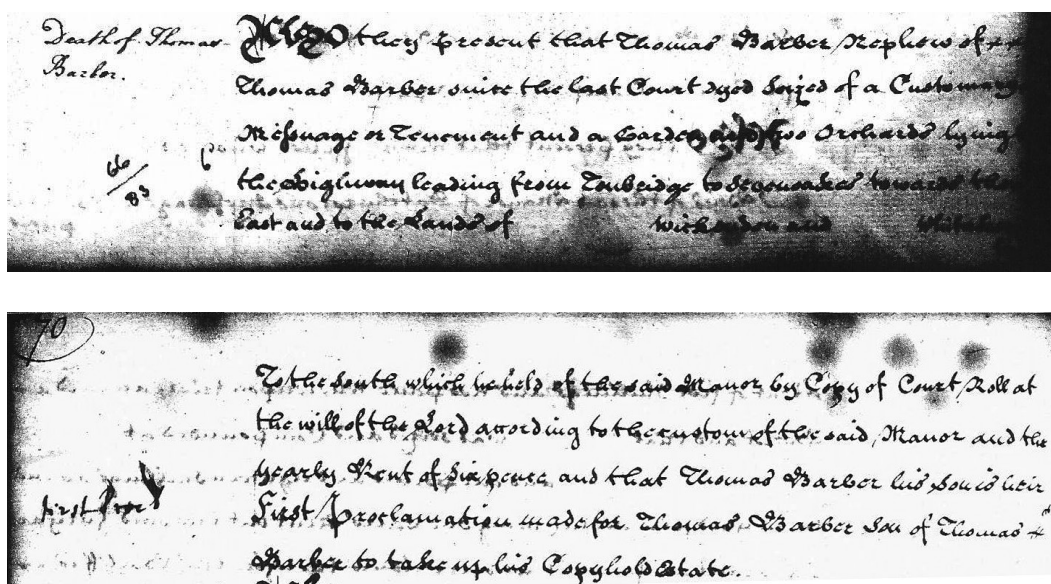


Fig. 52 The Datchurst manorial court roll of 19 October 1758. Kent History and Library Centre

Thomas Barber married Mary Lipscomb, daughter of Robert Lipscomb and Elizabeth Webb, on 24 May 1774 at Tonbridge, Kent.

On 29th January 1776 Elizabeth Barber released her one third interest in the properties of her late husband (her dower as he died intestate) to 23 year old Thomas for the nominal sum of 2 shillings. This included the Draper's property in Sussex, the Tonbridge Town property (dwelling, malt-house, etc.), the four acre property Finches, as well as the cottage in Hildenborough (Widow Mary Barber's house).<sup>210</sup> The next day, in a deed dated 30 Jan 1776, Thomas agreed to pay his mother a £20 p.a. annuity for life out of these properties. Although this deed has not been sighted, it is mentioned in a mortgage taken out on these properties in 1788.<sup>211</sup>

Between 1786 and 1793, Thomas and Mary appear to have lived in the nearby village of Ightham as they had children who were baptised there. The move to Ightham must have been associated with a business opportunity, as it resulted in some major financial transactions described below.

In 1787 Thomas sold the Drapers property in Rotherfield, Sussex to William Peerless. The property had been held in the family for nearly two hundred years. Although a contract of sale has not been found, the change of ownership is recorded in the Rotherfield land tax records. These records show that the Drapers property in Sussex had been leased to a John Parsons during the period

210 Indenture, Release of Dower, Elizabeth Barber to Thomas Barber, 29Jan1776 (KHLC: U1109 T17, Woodgate Family Papers).

211 Indenture, Mortgage of Finches, Tonbridge Town Site Land, and Hildenborough to George Children (KHLC: U642/T/20, Somerhill Estate Papers).

**Manors of Datchurst  
Sampson Martin Abbey  
and Ditch.**

The Court Baron of our Sovereign Lord  
George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain  
France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and  
Lord of the said Manor Holden at the House of John Galtland called or  
known by the Name or Sign of the Half Moon on the Twenty Third day of  
October in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and  
Sixty four Before Francis Auston Gentleman Deputy Steward to his  
Grace the Duke of Dorset High Steward thereof

**Essoins. None.**  
**Homage.** John children, Thomas Webb, Joseph Maynard. Sworn

Death of Tho. Barber First the said Homage being sworn and Charged upon their Oaths Do  
Present and say that Thomas Barber Infant Son and Heir of Thomas  
Barber deceased came into Court and by Elizabeth his brother and  
Guardian prayed to be Admitted to the said Customary Refuge or  
Tenement Guardian and two Orchards lying to the Highway leading  
from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks towards the East and to the Lands of  
Wickenden and later A Whitaker but now Eldridge to the  
South side his Father the said Thomas Barber deceased which he held  
by Copy of Court Roll and yearly Rent of six pence to whom the Lord  
by his said Deputy Steward Granted and delivered Sign thereof By the  
Roll to Have and to Hold the said Customary Refuge or Tenement  
Garden and two Orchards with the Appurtenances unto the said  
Thomas Barber his Heirs and Assigns for ever By Copy of Court  
Roll at the will of the Lord according to the Custom of the said Manor  
By the Rents and Services therefore due and of right accustomed  
He gave to the Lord for a fine for such his Estate Six pence and on  
fealty is required till the said Thomas Barber shall attain his Age of  
Twenty one years And afterwards during the same Court the  
Profits of the said Refuge and premises were granted and committed  
unto the said Elizabeth Barber until the said Thomas Barber the Infant  
should attain his Age of Twenty one years the rendering to the said Guardian  
Amount of the said Guardianship when thereto required

Also They present Thomas Harris of Tonbridge Baker for having  
about Thirty Rod of ground called Hooks Green part of the waste of  
the Manor of Datchurst

69  
159

Tho. Barber an Infant  
Admitted by Guardian

Tho. Harris for us  
In witness  
1764  
1769

Fig. 53 The Datchurst manorial court roll of 23 October 1764.

Kent History and Library Centre

1750-1764 (the records start at 1750 so it may have been earlier) and then to William Peerless 1765-1787 which is the last year that “Mr Barber” is recorded as the owner.<sup>212</sup>

William Peerless died in 1800 leaving a will dated 9 February 1799 in which he states his occupation is a glover and fellmonger, and that the Drapers property is to go to his son Henry Peerless of Speldhurst, Kent. His occupation of fellmonger is interesting (“fell” meaning skins and “monger” meaning dealer), as in 1605 the then owner of Drapers, George Barber alias Nynne, is noted in manorial court records as being a “*searcher of raw tanned leather*”. This indicates that storage and processing of skins was probably another of the uses for the Drapers land in addition to its coppice or forestry value mentioned in Thomas Barber's will of 1683; the husbandry mentioned in George Barber's will of 1617; and growing of corn (wheat) mentioned in John Barber's will of 1589.<sup>213</sup>

On 10 October 1788, Thomas and Mary Barber mortgaged their three properties – the one acre of land at the lower end of Tonbridge containing a dwelling, malt-house, barn, etc.; the four acre property Finches; and the one acre property in Hildenborough – to George Children of Tonbridge for the sum of £500 (see Appendix IV). Thomas agrees to free the properties from claims for dower by his wife Mary and any entails on the property and that he and Mary will record this at the Court of Common Pleas in London, the court which dealt with property disputes etc. Thomas also says that he is lawfully seized (possessed) of the property in fee simple – so there are no entails or claims on it by anyone else – and he has the right and power to mortgage the properties. The £500 plus interest at 4.5% per annum is to be repaid to George Children at his house in Tonbridge on 10 April next and until this is done Thomas has the right to occupy the properties and to take the rents, profits etc. If he does not repay these sums on the day fixed then George Children can occupy the properties and receive the rents etc. However, the right of Elizabeth Barber, widow, to take a 20 pound annuity for life out of the properties, conferred on her by a deed dated 30 January 1776, is preserved. Thomas Barber is to keep the premises insured for at least £400 and if the properties are damaged by fire then the insurance money is to go towards paying off the mortgage money. (Summarised by Gillian Rickard, Oct 2013).<sup>214</sup>

The sale of the Drapers property and the mortgage of their remaining properties (Finches, the Tonbridge Town malt-house and land, and the Hildenborough house) to raise £500 soon after the family moved to Ightham suggests that Thomas may have needed the funds to purchase or build a malt-house or for some other related activity, as his occupation is stated as a “malster of Ightham” on the

212 Land Tax of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1750-1779 (ESRO: XA31/24).

213 Will of William Peerless of Rotherfield, Sussex, 9 Feb 1799, pr. Lewes, 7 Nov 1800 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/68/507).

214 Indenture, Mortgage of Finches, Tonbridge Town Site Land and Hildenborough to George Children (KHLC: U624/T20, Somerhill Estate Papers).





**Fig. 54** George Children  
c1742-1818. *Tonbridge  
Historical Society*

1788 indenture. There is not much information available about the history of Ightham but discussions with David Williams, a local historian who is co-writing a book on the history of Ightham, indicated that the 1780-1800 period was one of relative prosperity as it was a time of peace when the country houses were doing well. People from London were buying property in the area and the opening of turnpike (toll) roads was increasing the amount of travel.<sup>215</sup>

In 1790 Thomas Barber is listed in the Poll for Knights of the Shire for Ightham as owning freehold house and land in Tonbridge occupied by William Jewhurst, who is also mentioned on the 1788 indenture as the occupier of Finches.

Perhaps he was the malster who ran the Barber's malt-house in Tonbridge after Thomas's father died unexpectedly in 1754?<sup>216</sup>

After 1793 the children's baptisms return to Tonbridge suggesting that they moved from Ightham back to Tonbridge.

Thomas is recorded in the 1798 national land tax assessments as owning and occupying a property in Tonbridge Town which was assessed for 2/- tax. He also owned and occupied a property in Hildenborough assessed at 4/- and another property in Barden at 8/-. Both Hildenborough and Barden are just outside Tonbridge. Thomas's father-in-law, Robert Lipscombe, also occupied a property in Barden owned by Geo. Children Esq. which was rated at £1. He also owned a property in Tonbridge Town which was occupied by John Latter and rated at 1/-.<sup>217</sup>

In 1801 the mortgage that Thomas and Mary had arranged in 1788 for £500 had not been repaid and interest had accrued. On 13 October 1801 the Hildenborough



**Fig. 55** Thomas and Mary  
Barber signatures on the  
26 December 1801 Indenture.  
*Kent History and Library Centre*

215 Jean Stirk and David Williams, *Ightham: At the Crossroads*, Red Court Publishing, Seal, Kent (forthcoming).

216 Webpage *Ancestry.co.uk* (<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>) Ancestry.com. UK, Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538-1893 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

217 Microfilm, UK Land Tax Redemptions, 1798, (The National Archives: IR23, Piece 38).



property was sold to George Children for £150 (see Appendix V).<sup>218</sup> The property that the Widow Mary Barber acquired in 1691 finally passed out of the Barber family. It was not registered with the Datchurst manorial court until 12 November 1813 (Fig. 56) where it was still described as a “messuage or tenement, garden and two orchards”.<sup>219</sup>

It is worth noting that the Tonbridge Bank collapsed on 7 December 1812 having a devastating effect on George Children and the other partners, with George declared bankrupt by 1817 and losing all his property. The late registration of the transfer with the Datchurst manor in 1813 was probably a case of George getting his affairs in order. Apparently he was a much loved figure in the town and there is a memorial to him in the Tonbridge parish church where he was buried in 1818. Six months after the collapse creditors were paid a quarter of what they were owed and possibly received more later. Many other single-branch country banks collapsed at this time caused by a monetary crisis brought about by Britain’s foreign wars.

Another indenture dated 26 December 1801 states that Thomas Barber had recently sold part of the mortgaged properties – it does not say which part – to William Wingate of Tonbridge, yeoman, for the sum of £425, leaving £360/4s/6d still owing to George Children (see Appendix VI). The indenture then states that Finches is to be sold to John Cheesman for the sum of £590 which will be used to completely discharge the mortgage and the balance of £229/15s/6d paid to Thomas Barber. On this document we see clearly the signatures of Thomas and Mary Barber (Fig. 55).<sup>220, 221</sup>

The property sold earlier to William Wingate can only be the town site lands, including the malt-house, as the other properties are accounted for. However, it also appears that part of this property was retained by the Barbers as the 1838 tithe map shows Mary Barber owing town site property where one would expect the malt-house. The original property was said to have about one acre of land (as stated on the 1788 mortgage) and the 1838 tithe map shows clearly that Mary Barber has 37 perches which is just under a ¼ acre and which appears to be a row of four shops on the High Street.

The repayment of the mortgage in 1801 resulted in the loss of the house at Hildenborough, the Finches property, and part of the Tonbridge Town property

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218 Indenture, Sale by Lease and Release of the Hildenborough property to George Children, 12 Oct 1801 (Lease) and 13 Oct 1801 (Release), (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1).

219 Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).

220 Indenture, Mortgage of Finches, Tonbridge Town Site Land and Hildenborough to George Children (KHL: U624/T20, Somerhill Estate Papers).

221 The William Wingate mentioned in this document is likely to be a family relative as the Wingates are mentioned in great uncle Thomas Barber's will of 1749. He is probably the son of William Wingate and Ann Jeffery, with Ann Jeffery being the daughter of William Jeffery and Elizabeth Barber (daughter of Thomas Barber and Mary Rootes).

Also they present that at this Court came Thomas Barber one of the Customary Tenants of the Manor of Darenth and then and there in full and open Court surrendered into the Hands of the Lord of the said Manor by the Hands and acceptance of the said Deputy Steward by the Rod according to the custom of the said Manor all that Customary Mesuages or Tenement Garden and two Orchards lying to the Highway leading from Sevenwaks to Tonbridge towards the East and to the Lands of Wickenton formerly Whitaker and since Sludges and late his Father Thomas Barber held of the said Manor by Copy of Court Roll and yearly rent of sixpence To the use and behoof of George Children by his Heirs and assigns for ever  
 - annuity the Defaulter for shillings each  
 By o/s  
 R. W. Barber

83  
 141  
 Surrendered  
 to  
 Geo Children.

Fig. 56 Surrender of the Hildenborough property to George Children on 12 Nov 1813.

Kent History and Library Centre

in addition to Drapers which had been sold in 1787. Overall, one is left with the impression that a significant part of the family assets were lost during their lifetime. On the positive side, Thomas had paid his mother an annuity of £20 p.a. between 1776-1798 and we do know from the will of Mary Barber (1838) that they had helped their two eldest sons financially (although Mary's will indicates that this came from the estate of her father who died in 1798 – an estate valued at £1,000). We also know that Mary was left with some properties in High St, Tonbridge (probably the remnants of the original malt-house complex) as well as some trust funds held under her late father's will, both of which would have provided her with an income in old age.<sup>222</sup>

Thomas Barber was buried on 10 August 1821 at Tonbridge, Kent, aged 68 years. Mary was to remain a widow for another 20 years.

Mary was baptised Mary Lipscomb on 8 December 1756 at Tonbridge, Kent, the daughter of Robert Lipscombe and Elizabeth Webb, and appears to have been an only child. Her parents were originally from the nearby village of Hadlow and they moved to Tonbridge possibly around the time Mary was born (the 1754

<sup>222</sup> Will of Mary Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, 17 Apr 1838, pr. 17 Jan 1842 (The National Archives: PROB 11/1956/36).

Poll for the Knights of the Shire records them as being the owner occupier of a freehold house in Hadlow yet Mary was baptised in Tonbridge in 1756).

Robert Lipscomb is recorded in the 1798 national land tax assessments as occupying a property in Barden (Tonbridge) owned by Geo. Children Esq. which was rated at £1, and also a property in Tonbridge Town which was occupied by John Latter and rated at 1/-. He was a Tonbridge churchwarden in 1797 and died in 1798 leaving an estate valued at £1,000. Although his will has not survived the record of probate indicates that his Executors were Robert Lipscomb (thought to be his great-nephew) and George Children Esq. Mary's own will of 1838 indicates that she was a beneficiary of this will.<sup>223, 224</sup>

In 1838 the tithe award for Tonbridge parish identifies a property in High Street belonging to Mary Barber: Plot number 1411; four houses and yards; Area: 37 perches (approx. ¼ acre); Occupiers – Battey and others. The 1841 census records a Charles and Ann Battey as fishmongers in High St, Tonbridge and they are likely the occupiers mentioned above. It seems reasonable to assume that this is a remnant of the property first used by Thomas Barber c1710 and originally containing a house and a malt-house, which in the 29 January 1776 indenture was estimated to be one acre more or less.<sup>225</sup> A section from the tithe map containing plot 1411 is shown below (Fig. 57).<sup>226, 227</sup>

Mary left a will made on 17 April 1838 at Tonbridge, Kent.<sup>228</sup>

This is the last Will and Testament of me **Mary Barber of Tonbridge in the County of Kent** Widow Whereas under and by virtue of the last Will and Testament of my late Father **Robert Lipscomb** of Tonbridge aforesaid yeoman deceased bearing date the sixteenth of May one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine certain trust estates monies and premises therein particularly mentioned (comprising the residual real and personal estates of the said Testator or the produce thereof respectively) were limited and assured and were directed to be paid assigned transferred and made over from and after my decease unto and amongst all and every my child and children who should be living at my decease (except my two sons **Thomas and Robert** who were therein otherwise provided for) and the issue of such child or children who

223 Probate of Robert Lipscombe of Tonbridge, pr. 26 Dec 1799 (The National Archives: IR/26/401/40).

224 Beauchamp Wadmore, *Some Details in the History of the Parish of Tonbridge*, M. Stonestree, Tonbridge (1906), (Tonbridge Library C130314352), Tonbridge Churchwardens pp.18-23.

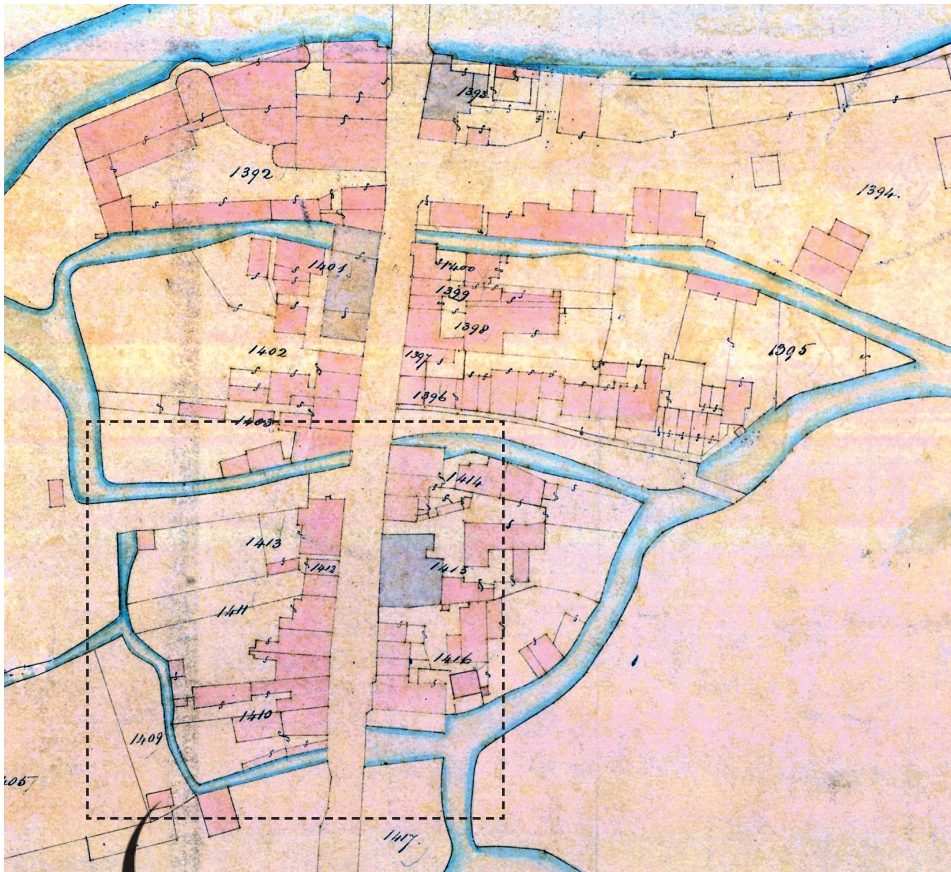
225 Indenture, Release of Dower, Elizabeth Barber to Mr. Thomas Barber, 29 January 1776 (KHL: U1109 T17, Woodgate Family Papers).

226 Webpage: *Kent Archaeological Society* (<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Maps/TON/01.htm>).

227 Kent Archives Service, Compact Disc, Digital Copy of Kent Tithe Map of Tonbridge 1838.

228 Will of Mary Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, 17 Apr 1838, pr. 17 Jan 1842 (The National Archives: PROB 11/1956/36).





**Fig. 57** Tithe map for Tonbridge 1838 showing on plot 1411 the four properties owned by Mary Barber. Note the Medway River and the Big Bridge at the top and also plot 1415 across the road (coloured blue) which is The Bull public house. *Kent History and Library Centre*





should be then dead leaving issue at such time or times and in such parts or proportions manner and form as I the said **Mary Barber** should by any deed or writing executed as therein mentioned or by my last Will and Testament in writing or any Codicil or Codicils thereto or any other writing purporting to be or in the nature of my last Will and testament or a Codicil to be [by] me signed and published in the presence of two or more credible witnesses direct nominate or appoint and in default of such direction nomination or appointment then unto and amongst all and every my said child and children (except as aforesaid) and issued respectively in equal shares and proportions as in the said recited Will is mentioned Now therefore pursuant to and by force and virtue and in exercise and execution of the power and authority to me for this purpose given by the said hereinbefore recited Will and of every other power and authority in anywise enabling me in the behalf I the said **Mary Barber** do by this my last Will and Testament in writing by me signed and published in the presence of two credible witnesses whose names are hereunder written as Witnesses hereto direct nominate and appoint that the said trust estate monies and premises so comprised in and limited and assured by the said recited Will of my said father **Robert Lipscomb** deceased as aforesaid and also all other monies goods chattels and Effects which under or by virtue of the said recited Will or otherwise I have power to dispose of by this my Will shall from and immediately after my decease remain and be and I hereby give devise and bequeath the same accordingly unto and to the use of my children **Elizabeth Gibbs Widow Sarah Ann the Wife of Thomas Smith Jane Barber Margaret the Wife of William Humphrey William Barber George Barber Phoebe Burton Widow Samuel Barber and Eliza Love** Widow in equal shares and proportions as tenants in common except nevertheless as to the share of my said daughter **Elizabeth Gibbs** which I direct and declare shall exceed by the sum of thirty pounds the respective shares of my said other children and I hereby bequeath such additional share to my said daughter **Elizabeth Gibbs** accordingly And I nominate and appoint **Robert Lipscombe of Penshurst** in the said County of Kent Yeoman Executor of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills and codicils by me at anytime heretofore made In Witness whereof I the said **Mary Barber** the Testatrix have to this my last Will and Testament contained in one sheet of paper set my hand and seal the seventeenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight **Mary Barber** Signed by the said **Mary Barber** the Testatrix in the presence of us who in her presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as Witnesses this seventeenth day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight the same having been first read over to her **Sydney Alleyne Solr Tonbridge H J F Lusignan** his clerk

Proved at London the 17th January 1842 before the Worshipful **John Daubeny** Doctor of Laws and Surrogate by the oath of **Robert Lipscomb** the sole Executor to whom Admon was granted having been first sworn duly to administer.

*Transcribed by Rosie Ansell of the SFHG, November 2012 for Geoffrey Barber.*

The executor of Mary's will, Robert Lipscombe of Penshurst, is likely to be the Robert Lipscombe of Pond Farm, East Peckham in the 1851 census. He is Mary's first cousin once removed and in the 1851 census is a farmer of 130 acres employing eight labourers, born Tonbridge c1797 and has a daughter Martha born c1832 in Penshurst. His name survives in modern law due to the legal proceedings called "Abington v. Lipscomb" (1 Q.B. 776) which was heard in 1841.<sup>229</sup> It concerned the lord of the manor demanding seven beasts from Robert Lipscombe as heriot (death tax) for several customary freeholds (parcels of land) held by his father who died in 1838. The lord was only entitled to five beasts and the court found that Lipscombe was entitled to a general refusal of all beasts. The outcome of the case has become important in tort law regarding demand and refusal of goods. This court case was probably just a short term victory for Robert and probably part of the reason



**Fig. 58** Anthony Wilson from the Tonbridge Historical Society provided this pre-1894 photograph and writes: "It's also possible that the building on the left of the gas lamp or the nearer one with the chap in the bowler hat were part of the Barber holding. Later everything on the left (west) side of the High Street was demolished in order to widen the road, so there's nothing left to see, I'm afraid. Some of the replacement buildings are in the 'goats' picture (refer Fig. 59), which still stand. If you come to Tonbridge, look for Peacock's shop on the East side of the High Street. That's where the Bull was, so you can work out the rest from there". *Photo of High St South Tonbridge, before 1894. Tonbridge Historical Society*

229 Charles James Gale, Esq. and Henry Davison, Esq., *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Court of Queens Bench and Upon Writs of Error from that Court to the Exchequer Chamber, in Easter, Trinity and Michaelmas Terms, 1841*, Vol I, (Google Play - free ebook), pp. 230-234.



Fig. 59 A later photograph from 1910 showing The Bull public house on the right and the newer buildings on the left after the road widening.

*Photo of High St South Tonbridge with goats, c1910. Tonbridge Historical Society*

why he moved from Penshurst to East Peckham sometime later. Robert died 27 July 1864 and his probate is dated 27 September 1864 with effects under £3,000.

In the 1841 census, Mary lived in High St, Tonbridge, aged 80 years, of independent means living with Elizabeth Gibbs, age 55 years. Mary's will indicates that Elizabeth Gibbs is her widowed daughter.<sup>230, 231</sup>

Although some of the family had remained around Tonbridge (notably daughter Margaret who married William Humphrey in 1822 and lived in nearby Hadlow), most of the family had dispersed by the time of Mary's death. While most remained in Kent, her eldest son Thomas and her unmarried daughter Jane had moved to Brighton in Sussex.

Their daughter Phoebe married Edward Burton, a waterman on the Thames, in 1819. She died in the St Pancras Union Workhouse in November 1874 just after her daughter Sarah Ann Jupp (née Burton) emigrated to Canada in April 1874 as a widow. Her husband had died after being kicked by a horse in 1863 and her situation was such that she had placed her three children in the care of

230 1841 Census for England, HO107 piece 463 folio 3/6 page 4.

231 Will of Mary Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, 17 Apr 1838, pr. 17 Jan 1842 (The National Archives: PROB 11/1956/36).



the Barnardo's organisation and arranged for them to be sent to Canada to be placed with farming families. She had then emigrated herself so she could keep in touch with them. The history of this family has been well written by descendant Alex Jupp in a book titled *Pluck and Perseverance – A Family History of George James Burton Jupp and Anne Jane Fallis*, privately published in 1996. I had the pleasure of meeting Alex when he visited Australia and he kindly gave me a copy of the book.<sup>232</sup>

Their son Samuel Nicholas Barber married Esther Walter Corbett on 29 October 1820 at St Nicholas Church, Plumstead, Kent. According to the 1841 census he was a baker. Their daughter Mary Esther Barber had five children, one of whom was Herbert Wells Barber, born 1847 in Deptford, Kent, and another was James Wells Barber born c1854 also in Deptford. Both emigrated to the USA and established a very successful ship brokers business. Herbert's obituary tells their story:

OBITUARY: The New York Times, Published 17 Nov, 1915

Herbert BARBER, President of BARBER & CO, Inc. late of 17 Battery Place, Englewood died at the Presbyterian Hospital, New York of 'pneumonia' following surgery performed on 7 Nov 1915. He was 68 years old. He was born in London, England in 1847 and emigrated to New York, arriving in Dec 1880 with his wife Sarah POSTLEWAITE [*sic*] and four children. He was employed as Shipping Agent representing Patton, Vickers & Co. who operated The Monarch Steamship Line between New York and London. He remained in this employ until 1887 when the company failed. He and his brother James BARBER soon established a Ship Brokers business which proved to be and was acknowledged as being 'the finest of its type'. The business was so successful that the firm was incorporated in 1902 as BARBER & CO, Inc. and by 1914 was responsible for operating lines to Bordeaux, South Africa, South America, India, China, Japan and Philippines whilst also representing the Union-Castle and Clan Lines. In 1914 the firm chartered extra steamers and entered the New York and Australia business. He and his family were constantly aboard the company's ships travelling extensively between the United States, Ireland, Great Britain and Europe in his capacity as company President. Herbert and his wife and family made their home in Englewood, New Jersey where he resided for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife of 40 years Sarah BARBER (POSTLEWAITE) and 12 children, eight of whom were born in New Jersey.

Adeline Sterling's book *The Book of Englewood* adds that he was a devoted churchman and for many years was vestryman and superintendent of the Sunday school of St Paul's [Episcopal] church. In his memory the large west window of

232 G. Alex Jupp, *Pluck and Perseverance – A Family History of George James Burton Jupp and Anne Jane Fallis*, G. Alex Jupp, 2207 – 44 Jackes Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1E5, Canada, First Edition (1996)



St Paul's was later erected by his brother James. A photograph of Herbert and James Barber and families is shown below.<sup>233</sup>

Mary Barber (née Lipscomb) died on 5 December 1841 at Tonbridge, Kent, aged 84 years. She died of natural decay of nature.<sup>234</sup> She was buried on 11 December 1841 at Tonbridge, Kent. Her estate was probated on 17 January 1842 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, London.<sup>235</sup>



**Fig. 59a** Mary's great-grandsons Herbert Wells Barber (1847-1915) on the right with wife Sarah Postlethwaite, and James Wells Barber (1854-1929) on the left with wife Catherine Gandy and families. *Private collection of Tyler S. Barber*

233 Adeline W. Sterling, *The Book of Englewood*, City of Englewood, N.J., USA (1922), pp. 271, 296.

234 *Copy death certificate of Mary Barber*, died 5 Dec 1841, registered 6 Dec 1841 in Tonbridge (GRO: Vol. 5 Page 335).

235 Will of Mary Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, 17 Apr 1838, pr. 17 Jan 1842 (The National Archives: PROB 11/1956/36).



**Fig. 60** Brighton, the Front and the Chain Pier seen in the distance (1840).  
*Frederick William Woledge, Yale Centre for British Art, Licensed under Public domain via Wikimedia Commons.*

## CHAPTER 5

# BRIGHTON *c1800-1950*

As the many children of Thomas and Mary Barber spread out from Tonbridge we find the next in our line, Thomas Barber, appearing in Brighton in Sussex which was at that time the pre-eminent seaside resort in England. The earliest recorded event there is his marriage in 1802.

Brighton is situated on the south coast of England and was originally just a small fishing town. It entered a period of decline from the mid 17th century due to the falling price of herring, attacks from French and Dutch privateers and even beach erosion. However, thanks to the emergence of a fashion for sea bathing it was transformed between 1740 and 1780 from a decayed seafaring town to a prosperous seaside resort and by 1800 it was the largest and most popular in Britain. Proximity to London was certainly a factor as was Brighton's ability to grow to meet the demand and changing tastes over time. Brighton offered the perfect escape for Londoners wanting a change of scene and some respite from the busy city.<sup>236</sup>

Between 1780 and 1820, the period in which Thomas moved to Brighton, many new suburbs were being developed to meet the demand for accommodation with small businesses expanding and prospering. One can understand the attraction to a young man interested in establishing himself in business and he doubtlessly saw more opportunity there than in his provincial home town of Tonbridge. In addition to this, his family appears to have reached a turning point in 1801 with the sale of a number of the family properties and this may also have tempted Thomas to look elsewhere. His mother's will made in 1838 states that he had previously been provided for (and so was excluded from her will), suggesting that the family may have helped him with an apprenticeship and to set up his business as a cabinet maker/undertaker in Brighton or to purchase the house at 4 Regent Row in Brighton after he married.<sup>237</sup>

It was not only Thomas who moved away from Tonbridge but most of his brothers and sisters as well as they spread out to places such as Greenwich, Tunstall, Charlton and Hadlow. Only Thomas's sister Jane joined him in Brighton. She never married and in 1851, at age 65 years, she was working at 27 Crown Street as a house servant.

The reader is referred to the book *Georgian Brighton* by Sue Berry (2005) for a more detailed history of Brighton in this period.

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<sup>236</sup> Sue Berry, *Georgian Brighton*, Phillimore (2005).

<sup>237</sup> Will of Mary Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, England, 17 Apr 1838, proved 17 Jan 1842 (The National Archives, Kew, PROB 11/1956/36).

## Thomas Barber 1775-1857 & Mary Lane c1769-1841

**Thomas Barber**, bap. 29 Mar 1775 at Tonbridge, Kent, d. 2 Jul 1857 at Keymer, Sussex, bur. 8 Jul 1857, Brighton, Mon. Inscr. at Brighton St Nicholas

+**Mary Lane**, b. c1769, Sussex, m. 4 Feb 1802 at Brighton, d. 21 Jun 1841 at Brighton, bur. 26 Jun 1841 at Brighton St Nicholas, Mon. Inscr. at Brighton St Nicholas

—**Robert Barber**, b. 6 Jul 1802 at Brighton, d. 4 Feb 1867 at Brighton

+**Jane Holden**, b. 17 Oct 1802 at Brighton, m. 6 Aug 1821 at Hove, Sussex, d. 28 Oct 1882 at Brighton, Mon. Inscr. at Brighton St Nicholas

—**Thomas Barber**, b. 7 Jun 1822 at Brighton, d. 4 Jul 1823 at Brighton, bur. 8 Jul 1823 at Brighton

—**Jane Barber**, b. 8 May 1824 at Brighton, d. 14 Dec 1848 at Brighton

—**Mary Barber**, b. 25 Apr 1826 at Westminster, London

—**Susannah Barber**, b. 25 Apr 1826 at Westminster, London

—**Elizabeth Barber**, b. 9 Dec 1828 at Westminster, d. 24 Feb 1916 at Taranaki, New Zealand

—**William Lane Barber**, b. 9 Jul 1831 at Brighton, d. 1914 at Steyning, Sussex

—**Emma Barber**, b. 23 Dec 1833 at Brighton

—**Anne Barber**, b. 16 Jan 1837 at Brighton

—**Robert Isaac Barber**, b. 16 Nov 1839 at Brighton, d. 4 Jan 1885 at Brighton

—**John Barber**, b. 10 Feb 1842 at Brighton, d. 4 Feb 1925 at Brighton

—**(stillborn) Barber**, b. 21 Nov 1845 at Brighton, d. 21 Nov 1845 at Brighton

—**Rebecca Barber**, b. 2 Feb 1847 at Brighton, d. 1905 at Lewes, Sussex

—**Rebecca Barber**, b. 25 Nov 1805 at Brighton, d. 1886 at Brighton

+**Robert Lewis Ashhurst**, bap. 3 Oct 1803 at Brighton, m. 27 Nov 1828 at Brighton, d. 1839 at Brighton

—**Robert Ashhurst**, bap. 8 Feb 1832 at Brighton, d. Dec 1851 at Brighton, bur. 3 Jan 1852 at Brighton

—**Rebecca Ashhurst**, bap. 27 Jun 1834 at Brighton, d. 1858 at Cuckfield, Sussex

—**Thomas Ashhurst**, bap. 18 Jun 1837 at Brighton, d. 1870 at Uckfield, Sussex

+**Charles Shaw**, bap. 3 Jun 1792 at Chailey, Sussex d. 30 Oct 1864 at Keymer, Sussex

—**Thomas Barber**, b. 15 Nov 1807 at Brighton, d. 14 Aug 1836 at Brighton, bur. 19 Aug 1836 Brighton, Mon. Inscr. at Brighton St Nicholas



**Thomas Barber** was baptised on 29 March 1775 at Tonbridge, Kent, the eldest son of Thomas Barber and Mary Lipscombe. He married Mary Lane on 4 February 1802 at St Nicholas Church, Brighton, Sussex (Fig. 61).<sup>238</sup>

Thomas was a cabinet maker/undertaker. In those days the cabinet maker who made the coffins also acted as the undertaker. Thomas's grandson, Thomas

<sup>238</sup> Microfilm of the Old Parochial Register of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials, St Nicholas Church, Brighton, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR255/1/1/10).



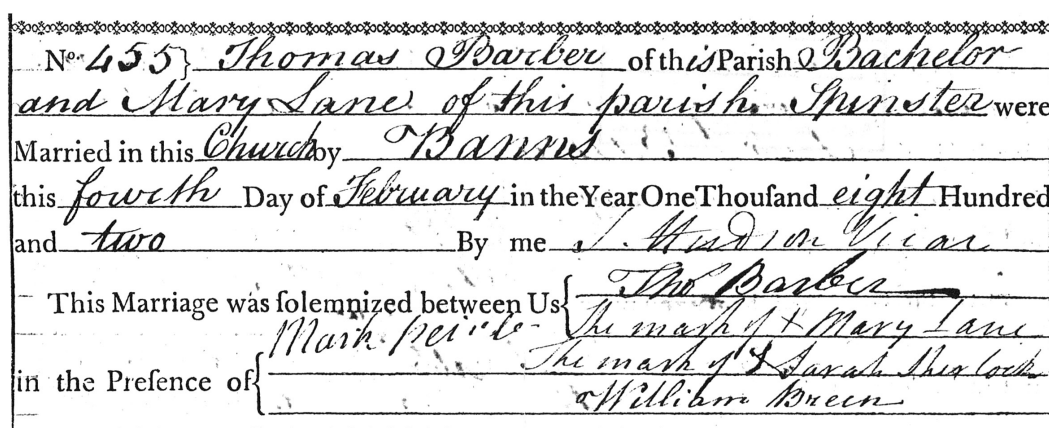


Fig. 61 The 1802 marriage record at St Nicholas Church, Brighton for Thomas Barber and Mary Lane with Thomas signing his name and Mary making her mark. ESRO

Ashhurst, is recorded in the 1851 census as a 14 year old coffin maker suggesting that he worked for his grandfather.<sup>239</sup>

Thomas would probably have served an apprenticeship in order to become a cabinet maker. Since 1563 it was illegal for anyone to enter a trade if they had not served an apprenticeship and this remained the case until 1814. Most apprenticeship agreements have not survived because they were simply personal contracts (indentures) between two parties. However from 1710 stamp duty was payable on these indentures at a rate of 6d for every £1 the master received for taking on the apprentice (with some exceptions). It is these records which have survived. A search for Thomas Barber showed only one possible entry: 29 August 1791 (the date the duty was paid) where Richard Shoobridge of Tenterden, Kent, cabinetmaker, took on a Thomas Barber as an apprentice.<sup>240</sup>

Tenterden is about 25 miles away from Tonbridge and so one has to be cautious in accepting that this is the correct Thomas Barber. Thomas's brother James was apprenticed as a cordwainer to Thomas Skinner in Tonbridge on 30 Jun 1808. A cordwainer (or cordovan) is a shoemaker/cobbler who makes fine soft leather shoes and other luxury footwear articles. James married in 1820 in Salehurst in Sussex and worked there as a cordwainer before his death in 1826. While James did his apprenticeship in Tonbridge, he married and worked in Salehurst, Sussex about 20 miles away. Given that most of Thomas's siblings did move a reasonable distance away from Tonbridge the apprenticeship in Tenterden may indeed be for our Thomas although we cannot be sure.

Little is known about Mary Lane although the 1841 census does confirm that she was born in Sussex. It is possible that she is related to William Lane, noted for

239 1851 Census for England, "Brighton, HO107 piece 1646 folio 528 page 3."

240 Register of Duties Paid for Apprenticeship Indentures 1710-1811, (The National Archives: 1R1).

his involvement in the early days of photography in Brighton. By 1853 Lane had set himself up as a photographic artist and was offering to provide “a first class daguerreotype portrait in handsome French case for two shillings” at his new premises at 213 Western Road. William Lane was born in Brighton in 1818, the son of Rebecca Shoebridge and William Lane, a fruiterer and orange merchant of Brighton Place, Brighton. If there is a connection, it is likely that the father William Lane is a brother to Mary. The possibility of a connection is based on the fact that Thomas and Mary’s son, Robert Barber, named one of his sons William Lane Barber in 1832.<sup>241</sup>

Thomas and Mary lived at 4 Regent Row in Brighton for most of their lives (as recorded on the 1836 Brighton voters list and the 1841 and 1851 census). Mary died there on 21 June 1841 aged 72 years.<sup>242, 243, 244</sup>

In the 1851 census Thomas is still living at 4 Regent Row with his widowed daughter Rebecca and her children, one of who is the 14 year old Thomas Ashhurst whose occupation is a coffin maker. It is this census record that gives Thomas Barber’s place of birth as Tonbridge in Kent, providing the important connection to earlier generations of Barbers.<sup>245</sup>

Soon after 1851 the family moved to St John's Common in Keymer. The death of Rebecca's eldest son Robert Ashhurst in 1851 may have been a factor.

Rebecca had a lot of misfortune in her life. In 1828 she married Robert Lewis Ashhurst, a school master, teacher of languages and a stationery dealer. He is reported in the London Gazette on 15 November 1833 as financially insolvent and appears to have been held in a debtor’s prison.<sup>246</sup> He died in 1839 leaving Rebecca with three young children. She then lived with her parents and remained with her father until he died in 1857. Her three children died before her in 1851, 1858 and 1870 and only one grandchild, Annie Rebecca Ashhurst, survived. Annie also had misfortune as shown in the 1871 census where she was only nine years old and living at 22 Wood St, Brighton with her maternal grandmother Sarah Funnell as both her parents and her brother had died.

Rebecca married for a second time in 1859 to Charles Shaw who was aged 65 years and who died only five years later. She died a widow in 1886 aged 75 years.

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241 Webpage: *William Lane (1818-1889) – Early Brighton Photographer* (<http://www.photohistory-sussex.co.uk/BTN-LaneWm.htm>).

242 *Copy death certificate of Mary Barber*, died 21 Jun 1841, registered 26 Jun 1841 in the Registration District of Brighthelmstone, Sussex, England (General Register Office, England, Vol 7 Page 175).

243 1841 Census for England “HO107 piece 1122 folio 9/10 page 12.”

244 1851 Census for England “HO107 piece 1646 folio 528 page 3.”

245 1851 Census for England, “Brighton, HO107 piece 1646 folio 528 page 3.”

246 Webpage: *The London Gazette* (<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/>) “Gazette Issue 19102 published on the 15 November 1833. p. 28 of 30.”

Rebecca's known descendants are shown below:

**Rebecca Barber**, b. 25 Nov 1805 at Brighton, Sussex, d. 1886 at Brighton  
 +**Robert Lewis Ashhurst**, bap. 3 Oct 1803 at Brighton, m. 27 Nov 1828 at Brighton,  
 d. 1839 at Brighton  
 —**Robert Ashhurst**, bap. 8 Feb 1832 at Brighton, d. Dec 1851 at Brighton,  
 bur. 3 Jan 1852 at Brighton  
 —**Rebecca Ashhurst**, bap. 27 Jun 1834 at Brighton, d. 1858 at Cuckfield, Sussex  
 —**Thomas Ashhurst**, bap. 18 Jun 1837 at Brighton, d. 1870 at Uckfield, Sussex  
 +**Sarah Annie Funnell**, b. c1839 at Brighton, m. 1859 at Brighton, d. 1862  
 at Brighton  
 —**Harry Thomas Ashhurst**, b. 1860 at Brighton, d. 1869 at Brighton  
 —**Annie Rebecca Ashhurst**, b. 1862 at Brighton, d. c1917 at Aston, Birmingham  
 +**William Page Venables**, b. c1857 at Deptford, Kent, m. 1883 at Camberwell,  
 London, d. 1923 at Aston, Birmingham, pr. 8 Aug 1923  
 —**Mabel Venables**, b. c1885 at Windsor, Berkshire  
 —**William Alfred Venables**, b. c1890 at Peckham, Surrey  
 —**Ralph Venables**, b. c1892 at Peckham, Surrey  
 —**Stanley Venables**, b. c1893 at Peckham, Surrey  
 —**Winifred Venables**, b. c1896 at Blackheath, Kent  
 —**Hilda Venables**, b. c1900 at Greenwich, London  
 —**Brian Venables**, b. c1905 at Blackheath, Kent  
 +**Charles Shaw**, bap. 3 Jun 1792 at Chailey, Sussex, d. 30 Oct 1864 at Keymer



Thomas Barber died on 2 July 1857 at Albert Villas, St John's Common, Keymer, Sussex aged 82 years. He died of natural decay. His death certificate states that he was a retired undertaker.<sup>247</sup>

He left a will made on 10 February 1855:<sup>248</sup>

This is the last Will and Testament of me, **Thomas Barber, of Brighton in the County of Sussex, cabinet maker**. I give and bequeath all my ready money furniture goods chattels and effects now in and about my dwelling house where I now reside unto my **Daughter Mrs Rebecca Ashurst** for her absolute use and benefit. And as to all Monies due to me on Mortgage or otherwise I give and bequeath the same unto and equally between my said Daughter and my **son Robert Barber**. And I give devise and bequeath all the estates which at my death shall be vested in me upon any trusts or by way of Mortgage unto **Charles Henry Smith of Hurst Green Sussex Auctioneer and George Attree of Brighton Auctioneer** their heirs executors and administrators respectively according to the nature thereof respectively

<sup>247</sup> *Copy death certificate of Thomas Barber*, died 2 Jul 1857, registered 7 Jul 1857 at Cuckfield, Sussex (GRO, Vol 2b Page 73).

<sup>248</sup> Will of Thomas Barber of Brighton, Sussex, England, 10 Feb 1855, pr. Lewes, 10 Jul 1857 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/85/963).

Upon the Trusts and subject to the Equity of Redemption which at my death shall be subsisting or capable of taking effect therein respectively but so that the money secured on such Mortgage be taken as part of my personal Estate And I appoint the said **Charles Henry Smith and George Attree Executors** of this my Will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of February One thousand eight hundred and fifty five THOS BARBER signed by the said Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of each other hereunto set our names as **witnesses Chas Chalk Solr, Brighton, Hy Llewellyn his clerk.**

The Will of **Thomas Barber** late of Brighton within the Archdeaconry of Lewes Cabinet Maker deceased was proved the tenth day of July in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty seven Before the **Reverend Richard Burnet** Clerk Surrogate and so forth Upon the oaths of **Charles Henry Smith and George Attree** the Executors in the said Will named To whom was committed the administration of the goods etc. They being first sworn well and faithfully to administer the same and so forth Sworn also that the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased did not amount in value unto four hundred and fifty pounds. Died at Keymer on or about the 2nd July 1857.

Thomas Barber was buried on 8 Jul 1857 at St Nicholas Church, Brighton.<sup>249</sup> The headstones for the graveyard at St Nicholas were cleared in the 1940/50s but were recorded by the Brighton Council at that time. There was a headstone for Thomas and his family:<sup>250, 251</sup>

In memory of Thomas son of Thomas and Mary Barber who died August 14th 1830 in the 29th year of his age. Also Mary wife of Thomas Barber who died June 21st 1841 in the 73rd year of her age. Also Thomas Barber who died July 2nd 1853 aged 73 years.

The transcription has a number of errors. The year of death for their son Thomas should be 1836 as per burial records for St Nicholas Church and not 1830. The age at death ("in his 29th year") would then fit his baptism date of 15 November 1807. Also, the year of death for the father Thomas should be 1857 and not 1853. His age at death is also wrong and should be 82 years (not 73 years). Monumental inscriptions are notoriously difficult to transcribe due to weathering of the gravestone and mistakes like this are very common.

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249 Microfilm of the Old Parochial Register of St Nicholas Church, Brighton, Sussex, England, (ESRO: PAR 255/1/5/11).

250 Monumental Inscriptions of St Nicholas Church, Brighton, (recorded 1940/50s), (Brighton History Centre). Transcribed 2007/8 by St Nicholas Green Spaces Association (SNGSA) and available at <http://mortiquarian.com/recording-our-deceased/> (accessed 5 Jun 2014)

251 Webpage: *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com/>) Memorial# 84237602."



## Robert Barber 1802-1867 & Jane Holden 1802-1882

- Robert Barber**, b. 6 Jul 1802 at Brighton, Sussex d. 4 Feb 1867 at Brighton  
 +**Jane Holden**, b. 17 Oct 1802 at Brighton, m. 6 Aug 1821 at Hove, d. 28 Oct 1882  
 at Brighton
- **Thomas Barber**, b. 7 Jun 1822 at Brighton, d. 4 Jul 1823 at Brighton, bur. 8 Jul 1823 at Brighton St Nicholas
  - **Jane Barber**, b. 8 May 1824 at Brighton, d. 14 Dec 1848 at Brighton
    - +**James Herbert Goldsmith**, b. 6 Apr 1824 at Brighton, m. 28 Dec 1841 at Hampstead, London, d. 16 Nov 1877 at Lunatic Asylum, Kew, Victoria, Australia
    - **Samuel Thomas Goldsmith**, b. 1842 at Hampstead, d. 17 Feb 1916 at Dean, Vic., Australia
    - **James Goldsmith**, b. c 1845 at Brighton, d. 24 Mar 1935 at Waubra, Vic., Australia
    - **Mary Abigail Goldsmith**, b. 19 Sep 1847 at Brighton, d. 7 Nov 1930 at Ballarat, Vic., Australia
  - **Mary Barber**, b. 25 Apr 1826 at Westminster, London
  - **Susannah Barber**, b. 25 Apr 1826 at Westminster, London
  - **Elizabeth Barber**, b. 9 Dec 1828 at Westminster, London, d. 24 Feb 1916 at Taranaki, NZ
    - +(**Alfred Yates?**, d. 23 Oct 1851 at London)
    - **Alfred Barber**, b. 28 Dec 1850 at Aldgate, London
  - +**George Tunnecliffe**, b. c1831, m. 8 Aug 1857 at Auckland, NZ, d. 13 Feb 1912 at Taranaki, NZ
    - **Louisa Tunnecliffe**, b. 14 Jul 1858 at New Plymouth, Taranaki, NZ, d. 26 Jun 1926 at Waiongana, Taranaki, NZ
    - **Margaret Elizabeth Tunnecliffe**, b. 10 Mar 1860 New Plymouth, d. 13 Apr 1940 at New Plymouth
    - **George Tunnecliffe**, b. 10 Mar 1860 at New Plymouth, d. before 1863
    - **George Tunnecliffe**, b. 1863 at New Plymouth, d. 1942
  - **William Lane Barber**, b. 9 Jul 1831 at Brighton, Sussex, d. 1914 at Steyning, Sussex
  - +**Ellen Nell**, b. 29 Apr 1835 at Brighton, m. 24 May 1863 at Brighton, d. 1888 at Steyning
    - **Robert John Barber**, b. 1864 at Brighton
    - **Alice Jane Barber**, b. 1866 at Brighton
    - **William Barber**, b. 1867 at Brighton
    - **Ann Barber**, b. 1869 at Brighton
    - **Ellen Barber**, b. 1870 at Brighton, d. 1871 at Brighton
    - **Edith Mary Barber**, b. 1873 at Brighton
    - **Elizabeth Barber**, b. 1875 at Brighton
    - **John Barber**, b. 1876 at Brighton, d. 1878 at Brighton
    - **Jane Barber**, b. c1888 at Brighton
  - +**Emma (--?--)**, b. c1850 at Islington, m. c1892
  - **Emma Barber**, b. 23 Dec 1833 at Brighton
    - +**James Fogo Wilson**, bap. 29 Apr 1832 at Brighton, m. 1853 at Brighton
      - **William James Wilson**, b. 1854 at Brighton
  - **Anne Barber**, b. 16 Jan 1837 at Brighton

▼ *continued overleaf*

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- **Robert Isaac Barber**, b. 16 Nov 1839 at Brighton, d. 4 Jan 1885 at Brighton
- +**Matilda Ellis**, b. 1849 at Slaugham, Sussex m. 7 May 1871 at Brighton, d. 1888 at Cuckfield, Sussex
- **Robert Isaac Barber**, bap. 22 Aug 1871 at Brighton, d. 1871 at Brighton
- **John Barber**, b. 10 Feb 1842 at Brighton, d. 4 Feb 1925 at Brighton
- +**Susannah Victoria White**, b. 19 Jan 1842 Brighton, m. 15 May 1865 at Brighton, d. 21 Nov 1903 Brighton
- **Robert John Barber**, b. 1865 at Brighton, d. 5 Feb 1939 at Brighton, pro. 5 Apr 1939
- **Christianna Barber**, b. 1869 at Brighton
- **Annie Barber**, b. 1871 at Brighton
- **William Barber**, b. 16 Jan 1874 at Brighton, d. 2 Nov 1952 at Brighton
- **Alice Barber**, b. 1876 at Brighton, d. 1924 at Brighton
- **Minnie Barber**, b. 1879 at Brighton, d. 1940 at Cuckfield, Sussex
- **James Barber**, b. 1881 at Brighton
- **John Barber**, b. 1883 at Brighton, d. 1946 at Brighton
- **Charles Barber**, b. 5 Sep 1886 at Brighton, d. 1980 at Hove, Sussex
- +**Lottie** (---), b. c1866 at Brighton, m. c1906
- **(stillborn) Barber**, b. 21 Nov 1845 at Brighton, d. 21 Nov 1845 at Brighton
- **Rebecca Barber**, b. 2 Feb 1847 at Brighton, d. 1905 at Lewes, Sussex
- +**William Ollive**, b. 1846 at Birkenhead, Cheshire m. 7 May 1870 at Brighton, d. 1912 at Brighton



Robert Barber was born on 6 July 1802 at Brighton, Sussex, son of Thomas Barber and Mary Lane. He was a cabinet maker all his life and a corner cabinet said to have been made by him as an apprenticeship piece (c1820) has been passed down the family (Fig. 62).

Robert married Jane Holden, daughter of John Holden and Susanna Roofe, on 6 August 1821 at Hove.<sup>252</sup> He had just turned 19 years old and Jane was 18 years. According to the 1851 and 1861 census returns her occupation was a straw bonnet maker.

Jane was the youngest child in her family and was only 16 years old when her father was buried on 1 April 1819 at St Nicholas Church, Brighton. He appointed his friend Henry Laker, victualler, as trustee and made special provision for Jane in his will.<sup>253</sup>

<sup>252</sup> Index to Sussex Marriages, 1538-1837, Compact Disk SFHGCD003, Sussex Family History Group, 2008.

<sup>253</sup> Will of John Holden of Brighton, Sussex, England, 6 Apr 1813, pr. Lewes, 6 Dec 1824 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/75/339).

... from time to time pay and apply the Interest thereof and such part of the principal as he or they shall find necessary or think proper for and toward the support, maintenance, education and bringing up of my youngest child Jane Holden until she shall attain the age of 21 years or be married or be otherwise provided for whichever shall first happen”.



**Fig. 62** Corner cabinet said to have been made by Robert Barber as an apprentice cabinet maker.

*Photo: John Frederick Barber, 2012*

memory capabilities suggesting that there must have been a family bible or similar. Although the information from this letter will probably never be able to be verified I feel there is no reason to doubt it.<sup>254</sup>

Her mother Susanna and Henry Laker were appointed executors. However, the will was not probated until 6 December 1824 (nearly three months after Susanna’s death) at which time the estate was valued at under £100. The will directed that this should be divided equally amongst Jane and her eight siblings.

We know a lot about Robert and Jane’s children thanks to a letter dated 1 June 1980 received by Fred and Rita Barber concerning the will of Robert and Jane’s grandson, Charles Barber (son of John Barber). The letter primarily concerned the bequest of £50 made to Fred and Rita’s son, John. However, in addition to a copy of the will, the letter also contained a detailed list of Robert and Jane’s children (Fig. 63). It provided details of all births, including exact times, dates and places and it did not contradict anything found in my own research. The level of detail goes beyond personal

Robert and Jane moved to London sometime after 1824 and returned to Brighton in 1829. The children Elizabeth, Susannah and Mary were all born in London during this period but were all baptised together on their return at St Nicholas, Brighton on 2 August 1829. The document “Brothers & Sisters of Grandfather [John] Barber” (Fig. 63) gives the place of birth of these children

<sup>254</sup> Letter from Victoria and Albert Griffiths, 23 Highcroft Villas, Brighton, to Rita and Fred Barber, dated 1 June 1980. “Brothers and Sisters of Grandfather [John] Barber” attached to letter. (John Frederick Barber Private Archives)

Brothers & Sisters of Grandfather Barber.

- THOMAS BARBER - born June 7th at 7 minutes after 7 o'clock  
in the evening at No 7 Portland Street  
Brighton in the year 1822. Died July 4th  
1823 and buried at the old Church, Brighton  
on the 8th of July.
- JANE BARBER born May 8th at 10 minutes before 2 o'clock  
in the afternoon at No 5 Clarence Gardens,  
Brighton in the year 1824.
- SUSAN BARBER & MARY BARBER born April 25th at 5 minutes after 6 o'clock  
in the morning at No 111 Jermyn Street,  
St. James, Westminster in the year 1826.
- ELIZABETH BARBER - born Dec 9th at 10 minutes before 12 o'clock  
at noon at No 111 Jermyn Street, St. James,  
Westminster in the year 1828.
- WILLIAM LANE BARBER - born July 9th at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 o'clock in  
the evening at No 3 Mount Zion Place,  
Brighton in the year 1831.
- EMMA BARBER - born Dec 23rd at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 o'clock in the  
morning at No 3 Mount Zion Place, Brighton  
in the year 1833.
- ANN BARBER - born Jan 16th at 10 minutes past 2 o'clock  
in the morning at No 3 Mount Zion Place,  
Brighton in the year 1837.
- ROBERT ISAIC BARBER - born November 16th at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 11 o'clock  
at night at No 1 Pentecost Court, North Street,  
Brighton in the year 1839.
- JOHN BARBER - born Feb 10th at 10 minutes before 6 o'clock  
in the morning at No 21 Gardner Street,  
Brighton in the year 1842.
- Boy born dead November 21st 1845.
- REBECCA BARBER born Feb 2nd at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 o'clock in the  
morning at No 35 Queens Gardens, Brighton  
in the year 1847.

Fig. 63 *Brothers & Sisters of Grandfather [John] Barber.* The document attached to the will  
of Charles Barber (died 1980). *Private collection of John Frederick Barber*



as 111 Jermyn St, St James, Westminster, London, presumably their residence while in London.

Robert's great grandson, Frederick Charles Barber, is reported to have said that Robert worked on the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. If this was true it would have to have been while he was quite young as the Royal Pavilion was built in three stages, initially commencing 1786 and with the final stage completed in 1822 when Robert would have been just 20 years old. However, if true then work on such a high status building could have led to similar work in London and thus explain his move there c1824.<sup>255</sup>

Robert and Jane's daughters Susannah and Mary were twins, born on 25 April 1826. There was a history of twins in the family with Jane's mother, Susanna Holden (née Roofe), also having twins Edward and Thomas in 1794.<sup>256, 257</sup>

The family lived at various addresses in Brighton. On their return from London in 1829 they lived at Mt Sion Place in Brighton (probably no. 3 Mt Sion Place as this is where William, Emma and Anne were later born). In the 1841 census they were living at Gardiner Street in Brighton (no. 21 according to birth of John Barber) and in 1851 at 35 Queens Gardens, Brighton. In 1861 they lived at 23 Kensington Gardens, Brighton.<sup>258, 259, 260, 261</sup>

Robert's father died on 2 July 1857 leaving an estate valued at about £450. His house and furniture were left to Robert's sister Rebecca, with the remainder divided equally between her and Robert.<sup>262</sup>

Two of Robert and Jane's sons married and had large families in Brighton. William Lane Barber married Ellen Nell in 1863 and they had eight children. John Barber married Susannah Victoria White in 1865 and they had nine children.

Robert died of bronchitis (6 days) on 4 February 1867 at 23 Kensington Gardens, Brighton aged 64 years.<sup>263</sup>

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255 Sue Berry, *Georgian Brighton*, Phillimore (2005), Chap. 5 "The Royal Pavilion".

256 Letter from Victoria and Albert Griffiths, 23 Highcroft Villas, Brighton, to Rita and Fred Barber, dated 1 June 1980. "Brothers and Sisters of Grandfather [John] Barber" attached to letter. (John Frederick Barber Private Archives)

257 Index to Sussex Baptisms, 1538 onwards, Sussex Family History Group, <http://www.sfhg.org.uk/>, ongoing project.

258 Index to Sussex Baptisms, 1538 onwards, Sussex Family History Group, <http://www.sfhg.org.uk/>, ongoing project.

259 1841 Census for England, "HO107 piece 1121 folio 6/40 page 23."

260 1851 Census for England "HO107 piece 1645 folio 748 page 32."

261 1861 Census for England, "RG09 piece 598 folio 64 page 34."

262 Will of Thomas Barber of Brighton, Sussex, England, 10 Feb 1855, pr. Lewes, 10 Jul 1857 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/85/963).

263 *Copy death certificate of Robert Barber*, died 4 Feb 1867, registered 8 Feb 1867 at Brighton, (GRO: Vol 2b Pg 155).

In the 1871 census, widow Jane was living with daughter Rebecca and her husband William Ollive at 71 Upper North St, Brighton. Ten years later she was living in the Race Hill Workhouse in Brighton, age 79 years. Many of the people living there at that time were elderly people over the age of 60 years. The workhouse was often the only place that elderly people could go for nursing and care in old age and was not necessarily a sign of poverty and abandonment. She died in the workhouse on 28 October 1882 of heart disease (morbis cordis, some years) and asthma, aged 80 years.<sup>264, 265, 266</sup>

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264 1871 Census for England, "RG10 piece 1087 folio 46 page 17."

265 1881 Census for England, "RG11 piece 1090 folio 134 page 12."

266 *Copy death certificate of Jane Barber*, died 28 Oct 1882, registered 31 Oct 1882 at Brighton, (GRO: Vol 2b Pg 131).

## Jane Barber 1824-1848: *To the Goldfields in Australia*

In 1841 Robert and Jane's daughter Jane became pregnant at the age of 17 years to James Goldsmith, also 17 years, and the couple were married as minors at the parish church of St John Hampstead, London on 28 December 1841 (Fig. 64). It appears that they stayed in London until the child was born before returning to Brighton, possibly to avoid embarrassment.

1841. Marriage solemnized <i>By Banns</i> in the <i>Parish Church of St John Hampstead</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
183	<i>Dec: 28<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>James Goldsmith</i>	<i>minor</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Whitworth</i>	<i>Hampstead</i>	<i>James Goldsmith</i>	<i>Whitworth</i>
		<i>Jane Barber</i>	<i>minor</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>Hampstead</i>	<i>Robert Barber</i>	<i>Cabinet-maker</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Church of England</i> by me, <i>R. Collins</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>James Goldsmith</i>			in the Presence of us,		<i>James Thompson</i> <i>Ann Heywood</i>	

Fig. 64 Jane Barber and James Goldsmith's marriage on 28th December 1841 at the parish church of St John Hampstead in London. Their signatures are in the lower left corner.

They had three children before Jane died in 1848 in Brighton of an acute skin infection. Her husband James remarried in 1852 and emigrated to Victoria, Australia with the children Samuel, James and Mary on the Dutch ship 'Zes Gezusters' (Six Sisters) arriving January 1853 at Point Henry, Geelong.<sup>267</sup>

After some time in Geelong, the family travelled to the gold diggings at Ballarat where they lived at Bakery Hill, Ballarat East. They were involved in the now famous Eureka rebellion of 3 December 1854 and during the brief battle daughter Mary Abigail was hidden down a mine shaft by her father. Mary's obituary in the Ballarat Courier newspaper on 19 November 1930 records:

The late Mrs Barnett was living in Ballarat during the Eureka riots and was hidden by her father, Mr Goldsmith, in a hole with some other children at Bakery Hill. They were left there till after the riot. Mrs Barnett well remembers the fear she experienced whilst the shooting was in progress.

James Goldsmith died in Melbourne, Victoria in 1877 and there are many descendants of the family in Australia today.

The first three generations of Jane's descendants are given below. The line has been extensively researched and much of the information below came from Chris Carpenter, a descendant of James Herbert Barnett (1874-1954), and Diane Christensen, a descendant of Samuel Henry Barnett (1884-1972), both living in Melbourne, Australia. The connection was confirmed by autosomal DNA testing in 2014.

<sup>267</sup> Public Record Office Victoria, Index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852 [database on-line], (<http://prov.vic.gov.au/>), accessed 28 July 2014. Details on Microfiche 026 Page 002.

**Jane Barber**, b. 8 May 1824 at Brighton, Sussex, d. 14 Dec 1848 at Brighton  
+ **James Herbert Goldsmith**, b. 6 Apr 1824 at Brighton, m. 28 Dec 1841 at Hampstead,  
Middlesex, d. 16 Nov 1877 at Kew Asylum, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
— **Samuel Thomas Goldsmith**, b. 1842 at Hampstead, d. 1916 at Dean, Vic., Australia  
+ **Louisa Dolman**, b. c1850 at Vic., Aust., m. 1879 at Ballarat, Vic., d. 1924 at Ballarat, Vic.  
— **Benjamin Goldsmith**, b. 1877 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1954 at New Zealand  
— **Samuel Thomas Goldsmith**, b. 1880 at Vic., d. 1923 at Ballarat, Vic.  
— **James Herbert Goldsmith**, b. 1882 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1948 at Ballarat  
— **Caroline Louisa Goldsmith**, b. 1884 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1971 at South Yarra, Vic.  
— **Thomas Coburn Goldsmith**, b. 1885 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1931 at Glen Park, Ballarat  
— **Walter Steven Goldsmith**, b. 1887 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1914 at Broken Hill, NSW  
— **Mary Ann Goldsmith**, b. 1890 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1984 at Geelong, Vic.  
— **George Goldsmith**, b. 1893 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1978 at Ballarat  
— **Jean Priscilla Goldsmith**, b. 1895 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1986 at Geelong, Vic.

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**Fig. 65** Jane Barber and James Goldsmith's daughter Mary Abigail Barnett (née Goldsmith), born 1847 at Brighton, died 1930 at Ballarat, Australia. *Private collection of Diane Christensen*



*continued from previous page*

- James Goldsmith**, b. 1845 at Maidstone, Kent, d. 1935 at Waubra, Vic.
- +**Martha Caroline Large**, b. 1847 at Southwark, Surrey, m. 1868 at Ballarat, Vic.  
d. 1878 at Wattle Flat, Vic.
- **James Herbert Goldsmith**, b. 1869 at Bungaree, Vic., d. 1930 at Ballarat
- **Louisa Jane Goldsmith**, b. 1870 at Bungaree, d. 1945 at Wangaratta, Vic.
- **Samuel Thomas Goldsmith**, b. 1872 at Bungaree, d. 1936 at Ballarat
- **William Francis Goldsmith**, b. 1874 at Bungaree, d. 1951 at Learmonth, Vic.
- **Richard George Goldsmith**, b. 1876 at Wattle Flat, Vic., d. 1957 at Ballarat
- **Martha Caroline Goldsmith**, b. 1878 at Ballarat, d. 1879 at Ballarat
- +**Louisa Anne Mulder**, b. 1857 at Magpie, Vic., m. 1880 at Sebastopol, Vic., d. 1924  
at Ballarat
- **Albert Mulder Goldsmith**, b. 1881 at Ballarat, d. c1926 at South Melbourne, Vic.
- **John Joseph Goldsmith**, b. 1882 at Bungaree, Vic., d. 1883 at Bungaree, Vic.
- **Joseph William Goldsmith**, b. 1884 at Bungaree, Vic., d. 1889 at Ballarat
- **Mary Ann Abigail Goldsmith**, b. 1885 at Ballarat, d. 1948 at Ballarat
- **Oliver James Goldsmith**, b. 1886 at Ballarat, d. 1888 at Ballarat
- **Henry Winn Goldsmith**, b. 1889 at Ballarat, d. 1982 at Melbourne, Vic.
- **Stanley Reginald Goldsmith**, b. 1891 at Ballarat, d. 1982 at Ballarat
- **Jane Caroline Goldsmith**, b. 1892 at Ballarat, d. 1970 at Warburton, Vic.
- **Lily Ann Goldsmith**, b. 1894 at Ballarat, d. 1960 at Hornsby, NSW
- **Mabel Rosa Hannah Goldsmith**, b. 1896 at Ballarat, d. 1983 at Cooranbong, NSW
- **Oliver Thomas Goldsmith**, b. 1897 at Ballarat, d. 1988 at Warburton, Vic.
- **Francis Reuben Goldsmith**, b. 1900 at Ballarat, d. 1900 at Ballarat
- **Leslie Starr Goldsmith**, b. 1902 at Ballarat, d. 1965 at Innisfail, Queensland
- **Mary Abigail Goldsmith**, b. 1847 at Brighton, Sussex, d. 1930 at Ballarat, Vic.
- +**Thomas Henry Barnett**, b. 1845 at Tetbury, Gloucestershire, m. 1868 at Fitzroy, Vic.,  
d. 1919 at Ballarat, Vic.
- **Jane Caroline Barnett**, b. 1869 at Ballarat, d. 1870 at Nerrina, Ballarat
- **Henry Barnett**, b. 1870 at Bungaree, Vic., d. 1870 at Nerrina, Ballarat
- **Thomas Cobrey Barnett**, b. 1871 at Bungaree, d. 1933 at Ballarat
- **James Herbert Barnett**, b. 1874 at Ballarat, d. 1954 at Ballarat
- **Annie Lydia Barnett**, b. 1877 at Ballarat, d. 1948 at North Melbourne, Vic.
- **Mary Abigail Barnett**, b. 1879 at Ballarat, d. 1949 at Ballarat
- **Lillian Maud Barnett**, b. 1881 at Ballarat, d. 1951 at Ballarat
- **Eliza Barnett**, b. c1883 at Ballarat, d. 1966 at Ballarat
- **Samuel Henry Barnett**, b. 1884 at Ballarat, d. 1972 at Ballarat
- **William Barnett**, b. 1888 at Ballarat, d. 1961 at Ballarat
- **Charles Howard Barnett**, b. 1890 at Ballarat, d. 1973 at Ballarat



## Elizabeth Barber 1828-1916: *A New Life in New Zealand*

On 28 December 1850 while working in service in London their daughter Elizabeth Barber gave birth to an illegitimate son, Alfred Barber, who was subsequently raised by Robert and Jane. The birth certificate shows that he was born at 11 Gunn Yard, Aldgate, Middlesex and the mother was Elizabeth Barber of 38 Camomile St, London. No father was given.

The 1851 census for 38 Camomile, St All Hallows London Wall, has Elizabeth Barber, age 22 years, unmarried, servant, born Brighton, Sussex. She is working for Saul and Sarah Yates whose eldest son Alfred (the likely father?) is aged 26 years. Both Saul and Alfred are solicitors. Unfortunately Alfred died later in 1851 of tuberculosis.<sup>268</sup>

On 13 April 1857, Saul and Sarah Yates emigrated to New Zealand with Elizabeth Barber on the ship “Dinapore”, departing Gravesend and arriving Auckland on 5 August 1857. On the voyage Elizabeth met her future husband, George Tunnecliffe, and they married on 8 August 1857 just three days after arriving in Auckland.<sup>269</sup>



**Fig. 66** The grave of Elizabeth Tunnecliffe (née Barber). Grave 56, St Mary’s Cathedral, New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand.

Photo: John Pickering, 14 April 2014

In the 1861 census, ten year old Alfred is living with his grandparents Robert & Jane Barber in Brighton. It would appear that he never saw his mother again. Alfred’s marriage certificate states his father is Robert Barber, a cabinet maker, who was actually his grandfather. In New Zealand, Elizabeth and George lived in the Taranaki region of North Island and had three surviving children all of whom married and had families.

Elizabeth is buried with her husband George Tunnecliffe at St Mary’s Cathedral in New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand (Fig. 66). The headstone reads: *In loving memory of George Tunnecliff died 13 February 1912 aged 80 years also Elizabeth Tunnecliff died 24 February 1916 aged 86. At rest.*

<sup>268</sup> Copy death certificate of Alfred Yates, died 23 Oct 1851, reg. 24 Oct 1851 at City of London, (GRO: Vol 2 Page 128).

<sup>269</sup> Webpage: *New Zealand Yesteryears* (<http://www.yesteryears.co.nz/index.html>) “<http://www.yesteryears.co.nz/shipping/passlists/dinapore.html>.”

The first three generations of Elizabeth's descendants in New Zealand are given below. The line has been well researched by Margaret Gaffney and nearly all the information below came from her. The connection was confirmed by autosomal DNA testing in 2014. Margaret is a descendant of George Tunnecliffe McGonnell (1889-1955) and although born in New Zealand currently lives in East Malling, Kent.

- Elizabeth Barber**, b. 9 Dec 1828 at Westminster, London, d. 24 Feb 1916 at Kent Rd, Taranaki, New Zealand
  - + (**Alfred Yates?** d. 23 Oct 1851 at 38 Camomile St, London)
    - **Alfred Barber**, b. 28 Dec 1850 at 11 Gun Yard, Aldgate, London
      - +**Miriam Beall**, b. 1851 at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, m. 20 Oct 1872 at Shoreditch, Middlesex, d. 22 Dec 1917 at Lambeth, London
        - **Julia Elizabeth Barber**, b. 1873 at Brighton, Sussex
        - **Alfred Charles Beall Barber**, b. 1876 at Brighton, Sussex
        - **Emily Beatrice Barber**, b. 1878 at Brighton, Sussex
        - **William Ollive Barber**, b. 1881 at Southwark, London, d. 1947 at Camberwell, London
        - **Miriam Gertrude Barber**, b. 28 Aug 1883 at Walworth, London, d. 1972 at Bridge, Kent
        - **Lillabelle Constance Ivy Barber**, b. 1892 at Walworth, London, d. 1968 at Lewisham, London
        - **Ruby Dorothy May Barber**, b. 1894 at Southwark, London
  - +**George Tunnecliffe**, b. 1831 at Checkley, Staffordshire, m. 8 Aug 1857 at Auckland, New Zealand, d. 13 Feb 1912 at Taranaki, New Zealand
    - **Louisa Tunnecliffe**, b. 14 Jul 1858 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 26 Jun 1926 at Waiongana, Taranaki, NZ
      - +**Joseph Pattimore**, b. c1838, m. 1874 at NZ, d. 3 Mar 1883 at NZ
        - **Elizabeth Mary Pattimore**, b. 1875 at NZ
        - **Florence Gertrude Pattimore**, b. 1878 at NZ, d. 1949 at NZ
        - **May Louisa Pattimore**, b. 1880 at NZ, d. Jan 1932 at NZ
        - **William George Pattimore**, b. 1882 at NZ, d. 1883 at NZ
    - +**Michael McGonnell**, b. Nov 1837 at Moneydarragh, Kilkeel, Co. Down, N. Ireland, m. 28 May 1888 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 5 May 1929 at Waiongana, NZ
      - **William Michael McGonnell**, b. 1889 at NZ, d. 1965 at NZ
      - **George Tunnecliffe McGonnell**, b. 16 Jul 1889 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 14 May 1955 at Taranaki, NZ
      - **Daisy Louisa McGonnell**, b. 1891 at NZ
      - **Ivy Margaret McGonnell**, b. 25 Dec 1894 at NZ, d. 1977 at NZ

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**Margaret Elizabeth Tunnecliffe**, b. 10 Mar 1860 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 13 Apr 1940 at New Plymouth, NZ

+**John Eva**, b. 6 Sep 1845 at New Plymouth, NZ, m. 2 Feb 1876 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 11 Aug 1916 at New Plymouth, NZ

— **William John Eva**, b. 1876 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 1955 at NZ

— **Louisa Jessie Eva**, b. 1878 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 1962 at NZ

— **Elizabeth Maria Eva**, b. 15 May 1881 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 2 May 1892 at New Plymouth, NZ

— **Priscilla Jane Eva**, b. 2 Aug 1882 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 8 Jul 1972 at New Plymouth, NZ

— **George Tunnecliffe Eva**, b. 24 Nov 1884 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 24 Sep 1963 at Hamilton, Victoria, Australia

— **Robert Henry Eva**, b. 1886 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 1961 at NZ

— **Daisy Victoria Eva**, b. 18 Nov 1887 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 1981 at NZ

— **Violet Alice Eva**, b. 11 Jul 1890 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 1984 at NZ

— **Thomas Richard Eva**, b. 1894 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 1959 at NZ

— **George Tunnecliffe**, b. 10 Mar 1860 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 1860 at Taranaki, NZ

— **George Tunnecliffe**, b. 1863 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 19 Jul 1942 at Masterton, Wellington, NZ

+**Alice Kine**, b. 30 May 1863 at Meerbrook, Staffordshire, m. 27 May 1885 at Inglewood, Taranaki, NZ, d. 1 Oct 1919 at New Plymouth, NZ

— **Edward George Tunnecliffe**, b. 1886 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 14 Oct 1916 at NZ

— **Leonard William Tunnecliffe**, b. 27 Mar 1888 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 31 Jul 1972 at Auckland, NZ

— **Maurice Victor Tunnecliffe**, b. 21 Sep 1889 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 26 Sep 1972 at Auckland, NZ

— **Marjorie Alice Tunnecliffe**, b. 29 Jun 1903 at New Plymouth, NZ, d. 1970 at Auckland, NZ

+**Mary Jane Bielby**, b. 1864, m. 1921 at NZ, d. 1950 at NZ



Despite the difficulties with daughters Jane and Elizabeth, Robert and Jane left a substantial legacy of children and grandchildren in Australia and New Zealand as well as in Brighton. The history of this family remains a work in progress as we seek more information about their other daughters Mary, Susannah, Emma and Anne. It is likely that their stories will be revealed when other researchers discover their connection to Robert and Jane while working back on their family trees, just as it was for daughters Jane and Elizabeth.



## John Barber 1842-1925 & Susannah Victoria White 1842-1903

- John Barber**, b. 10 Feb 1842 at Brighton, Sussex d. 4 Feb 1925 at Brighton  
 +**Susannah Victoria White**, b. 19 Jan 1842 at Brighton, m. 15 May 1865 Brighton,  
 d. 21 Nov 1903 Brighton
- **Robert John Barber**, b. 1865 at Brighton, d. 5 Feb 1939 at Brighton, pro. 5 Apr 1939
  - +**Elizabeth Love Morley**, b. 1867 at Brighton, m. 1887 at Brighton, d. 1939 at Brighton
  - **Christianna V Barber**, b. 1869 at Brighton, d. 19 Aug 1957 at East Chilmington, Sussex
  - +**Harry Pollard**, b. c1869 at Brighton, m. 1891 at Brighton, d. 22 Feb 1944 at Brighton
    - **Charles Henry Pollard**, b. 1891 at Brighton, d. 1952 Brighton
    - **John Robert Pollard**, b. 1894 at Brighton, d. 1966 at Brighton
    - **Francis Pollard**, b. 1898 at Brighton, d. 1972 at Brighton
    - **James Victor Pollard**, b. 1906 at Brighton, d. 1972 at Brighton
  - **Annie Barber**, b. 1871 at Brighton, d. 1 May 1934 at Haywards Heath, Sussex
  - +**Alfred Lamkin**, b. c1874 at Brighton, m. 1897 at Brighton, d. 18 Jan 1945 at Brighton
    - **Charles Alfred Lamkin**, b. c1898 at Brighton
    - **Walter James Lamkin**, b. 1905 at Brighton
  - **William Barber**, b. 16 Jan 1874 at Brighton, d. 2 Nov 1952 at Brighton
  - +**Ada Morris**, b. 27 Aug 1874 Little Horsted, Sussex m. 9 Nov 1895 Brighton,  
 d. 25 May 1963 Haywards Heath
    - **Leslie Robert William Barber**, b. 18 Sep 1897 at Brighton, d. 17 Jul 1976 at Brighton
    - **Stillborn Barber**, b. 1896 at Brighton, d. 1896 at Brighton
  - **Alice Barber**, b. 1876 at Brighton, d. 1924 at Brighton
  - +**John Menzies**, b. 6 Jan 1875 at Perth, m. 1898 at Brighton, d. 1968 at Brighton
    - **Robert John Menzies**, b. 26 Nov 1900 at West Ham, d. 1982 at Brighton
    - **Victoria Margaret Menzies**, b. 5 Mar 1904 at Brighton, d. Apr 2003 at Brighton
    - **David Elder Menzies**, b. 29 Jul 1907 at Brighton, d. 4 Mar 1959 at Brighton
    - **Eva Alice Menzies**, b. 1910 at Brighton, d. 1910 at Brighton
    - **John Charles Menzies**, b. 1911 at Brighton, d. 10 Sep 1944
    - **Leonard James Menzies**, b. 9 Mar 1915 at Brighton, d. Sep 2004 at Brighton
    - **Jean May Menzies**, b. 14 May 1919 at Brighton, d. May 2004 at Brighton
  - Minnie Barber**, b. 1879 at Brighton, d. 1940 at Cuckfield
  - +**Octavius Harry Knight**, b. 1879 at Henfield, Sussex, m. 1901 at Brighton,  
 d. 7 Feb 1959 at Brighton
    - **Elizabeth Victoria Knight**, b. 1904 at Brighton
    - **Doris Minnie Knight**, b. 1907 at Brighton
    - **Cyril Percy Knight**, b. 25 Dec 1913 at Brighton, d. Apr 1999 at Lewes, Sussex
    - **Gladys E Knight**, b. 1916 at Brighton
  - **James Barber**, b. 1881 at Brighton, d. 1946 at Brighton
  - +**Ellen Leach**, b. 1885 at Brighton, m. 1907 at Brighton
    - **Grace Nellie Barber**, b. 11 Dec 1910 at Brighton, d. 2003 at Brighton.
    - **May Irene Barber**, b. 3 Jun 1914 at Brighton, d. 1989 at Brighton
    - **Ronald J Barber**, b. 1918 at Brighton

▼ *continued next page*

— **John Barber**, b. 1883 at Brighton, d. 1946 at Brighton  
+**Alice Teague**, b. 7 Jan 1887 at Bodmin, Cornwall, m. 1918 at Brighton, d. 1974  
at Brighton  
— **Frederick Charles Barber**, b. 26 Jun 1920 at Brighton, d. Dec 2001 at Eastbourne,  
Sussex  
— **Charles Barber**, b. 5 Sep 1886 at Brighton, d. 1980 at Hove  
+**Helen A Hutton**, b. c1882, m. Jul 1911 at Brighton, d. 1963 at Brighton  
+**Lottie (--?--)**, b. c1866 at Brighton, m.(?) c1906 at Brighton



John Barber was born on 10 February 1842 at 21 Gardner St, Brighton, son of Robert Barber and Jane Holden.<sup>270</sup> He was baptised on 30 October 1842 at St Peter's Church, Brighton.<sup>271</sup>

John was cabinetmaker/carpenter journeyman all his life. The word 'journeyman' indicates that he was a qualified tradesman but employed by someone else.

He married Susannah Victoria White, daughter of William White and Mary Wickens on 15 May 1865 at the Register Office, Brighton. Prior to his marriage he lived with his parents at 23 Kensington Gardens, Brighton. Susannah was living at 47 Belgrave St, Brighton.<sup>272</sup>

They had a large family of nine children between 1865 and 1886. In 1881 the family lived at 37 Albion St, Brighton. In 1891 they lived at 78 Lincoln St, Brighton and remained there until at least 1903 when Susannah died. The 1901 census shows that the children Minnie aged 22 years, James aged 20 years and John aged 18 years were still living at home with them.<sup>273, 274</sup>

Susannah's death would have caused some disruption in the family and John appears to have re-married a few years later in about 1906. The 1911 census shows him at age 68 years living with 45 year old Lottie at 18 Dinapore St, Brighton and states that they have been married for five years. However, the marriage record has not been found. He was still working as a carpenter at that time.<sup>275</sup>

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270 Letter from Victoria and Albert Griffiths, 23 Highcroft Villas, Brighton, BN1 5PS, UK, to Rita and Fred Barber, dated 1 June 1980 (GG Barber Private Archives) "Brothers and Sisters of Grandfather [John] Barber" attached to letter.

271 Index to Sussex Baptisms, 1538 onwards. Sussex Family History Group, <http://www.sfhg.org.uk/>, ongoing project.

272 *Copy marriage certificate of John Barber and Susannah Victoria White*, married 15 May 1865 at Brighton, Sussex (GRO: Vol 2b Page 381).

273 1881 Census for England, "RG11 piece 1082 folio 34 page 7"

274 1891 Census for England, "RG12 piece 807 folio 110 page 44"

275 1911 Census for England, "RG14 piece 5099 schedule no 364"

John Barber died on 4 February 1925 at 18 Dinapore St, Brighton, aged 82 years, of senile decay and myocardial degeneration.<sup>276</sup>

Susannah Victoria White was born on 19 January 1842 at Brighton, Sussex. She was baptised on 29 January 1842 at St Nicholas Church, Brighton. She was also known as Victoria as this has been used in some of the census returns and it may even have been her preferred name.<sup>277, 278</sup>

In 1851, at age nine years, Susannah was living at 30 Sun Street, Brighton with her parents and family (Sun Street no longer exists). Ten years later, aged 19 years, she was living at 12 Hanover St, Brighton with her elder sister Jane (age 38 years) and her husband William Ladd (age 64 years). Susanna was recorded as Victoria White and her occupation was dressmaker. It appears that Susannah lived with Jane and her husband after her parents died and before she was married. In the 1881 census Jane Ladd, 59 years (widow, occupation chairwoman) was staying with Susannah and her family, so the favour was returned.<sup>279, 280, 281</sup>

Susannah died on 21 November 1903 at the workhouse, East Brighton, aged 61 years, of cerebral softening and hemiplegia on her right side.<sup>282</sup> Hemiplegia is paralysis or severe weakness on one side of the body, typical of a stroke. Susannah was probably placed in the workhouse as the only place where she could get care.

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276 *Copy death certificate of John Barber*, died 4 Feb 1925, registered 5 Feb 1925 at Brighton, (GRO: Vol 2b Page 303).

277 *Copy birth certificate of Susannah White*, born 19 Jan 1842, reg. 28 Feb 1842 at Brighton, (GRO: Vol 7 Page 284).

278 Index to Sussex Baptisms, 1538 onwards. Sussex Family History Group, <http://www.sfhg.org.uk/>, ongoing project.

279 1851 Census for England "HO107 piece 1645 folio 57 page 6."

280 1861 Census for England, "RG09 piece 595 folio 84 page 6."

281 1881 Census for England, "RG11 piece 1082 folio 34 page 7"

282 *Copy death certificate of Susannah Victoria Barber*, died 21 Nov 1903, registered 24 Nov 1903 at Brighton, (GRO: Vol 2b Page 130).

## John Barber 1883-1946: *The Oxford Movement*

The information about John and Susannah's son John and his descendants comes from John Barber of Chester in England, my second cousin once removed, and the following is mostly in his words.

In the 1901 census John was aged 18 years, living with his parents and working as a labourer in a small arms factory. By 1911, after his mother had died and his father remarried, John and his brother Charles were living at the house of their brother Robert John Barber and wife Elizabeth (who never had children). He was employed as a labourer at a motor works while Charles and Robert both worked at the mineral water manufacturer Royal German Spa; Robert as foreman and Charles as a wirer.<sup>283, 284</sup>

In 1918 John Barber married Alice Teague, daughter of Charles Henry Teague, at Brighton. Alice was in service with a lady of private means in Hove before marrying John. Alice's father was an asthmatic and came to Brighton for 'the air', bringing his children with him. The Teagues came from the village of Creed in Cornwall, between Grampound and Tregony, and generations are buried in the churchyard and surrounding settlements.

After their marriage, John and Alice moved to St Luke's Road in the Queen's Park area of Brighton and later to 14 Glynde Road. He was by all accounts a very loveable man and a committed Christian (he was a Sunday-school teacher), but found it difficult to hold on to money and therefore never accumulated much by way of savings. Although John was married at the old parish church of St Nicholas, at some point he became a member of the religious sect that was known as the Oxford Movement. Brighton at this time was a noted centre of high church worship and there were several Oxford Movement churches in the town, the most dramatic of which was (and is) St Bartholomew's. John had a variety of jobs during his lifetime – the only ones known are crane driver at Newhaven harbour (presumably in WW1), transport worker and a cloakroom attendant. He died of cancer in 1946 at Brighton General Hospital age 63 years.

Alice continued to live at Glynde Rd for many years after her husband died, and in 1964 her son Fred found her a flat at 8 Johnson Bank, Wellington Road, Brighton. She lived here until her death from heart failure in 1973.

Their only child Frederick Charles Barber was born on 26 June 1920 at Brighton. Fred was brought up at 17 St Luke's Road and was educated at St Luke's School and then at Elm Grove School. He left school at 16 years and soon after joined the Brighton Cooperative Society at the Coal Office in London Road.

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283 1901 Census for England, "RG13 piece 924 folio 70 page 28"

284 1911 Census for England, "RG14 piece 5110 schedule no 77"



During WW2 Fred wanted to be a pilot, but this was not an option normally open to the working classes and he was offered a rear gunner's post. Typically he turned this down and was promptly sent off to the army – but was diverted by RAF friends into ground crew and became an armourer and inspector of factories.

In the early 1950's Fred was elected to the Brighton Town Council as Labour Party member for St Peter's ward, narrowly defeating the conservative candidate. The ward had traditionally been conservative 'territory' so this was something of a coup. Fred served on the council for several years and was elected member of the Watch Committee. He was a man who liked to get things done for Brighton and was not averse to working with the conservative members to bring this about. He was instrumental for instance in settling the dispute of the London Road barrow-boys. In those days London men used to come to Brighton and displace local traders: Fred Barber instigated a licensing system to resolve the acrimony that often resulted from the disputed pitches.

In 1951 Fred was canvassing staff at Brighton General Hospital. (The parties would compete for the nurses' vote by bussing them down to the polling station!). In the course of canvassing he met a tall red-headed midwifery sister from South Wales, Rita O'Leary. Rita was a catholic and after a tempestuous engagement eventually deserted her church and family and married Fred at St Bart's [Bartholomew's] in 1952. No member of Rita's family came to her wedding.

In the late 50's Fred worked for the Cooperative Insurance Society. He was a hard-working and successful agent, climbing the ladder, eventually being appointed Assistant District Manager at the Society's offices in North Street and a director of the Brighton Cooperative Society. The Barbers also moved into an amazing house, 20 Hanover Crescent. This Grade II listed building was in one of the best Regency crescents in Brighton, but half the road had been purchased by the Coop on account of their siting a milk bottling plant to the rear of the properties. Hence employees were allowed to rent the houses. It was a wonderful place to live and the Barbers set about re-creating an authentic regency interior. They held many parties in this house, which became a popular venue for their circle of friends. Nana Barber (Alice Teague) lived nearby and was a frequent visitor.

In 1973 Fred was offered a District Manager's job at Sutton in Surrey and so he and Rita left Hanover Crescent with mixed feelings. Fred retired from the C.I.S in 1985 and he and Rita went to live in a spacious Edwardian villa over at Eastbourne [10 Park Lane] where they were very happy. Fred kept in contact with Brighton by virtue of his membership of the Masonic Society (he was Lodge organist) and drove the few miles down the coast road every few months. He kept busy by becoming Treasurer for the Eastbourne Association for the Disabled, where he revolutionised their financial situation in short order.

For all his life Fred was a ‘money man’, practical, wise, much respected and very moral person with a strong sense of humour. He never lost his attachment to Brighton and to St Bartholomew’s.

Fred died in December 2001 at Eastbourne, Sussex aged 81. Rita moved to Chester and now lives near her son John.

John Frederick Barber was their only child. He was born in 1953 at Brighton. John wrote the following about himself:

Born 1953 and attended St Bartholomew’s primary school in Brighton and sang in the choir. It was a little backstreet school full of children from pretty poor families. At some point it was found I could sing, so soon after I started piano lessons my music teacher and the church organist advised my parents that I should go for something better, and so in 1962 I was taken to the voice trials at Magdalen College Oxford (It was scary). I won the voice trial and that gave me my education. The other big Oxbridge choirs (King’s Cambridge, St John’s, New College and Christ Church) had only preparatory schools attached, but Magdalen gave access right through to 18, and so I had a clear run BUT 8 years at boarding school which I hated. After that I studied psychology at London Uni, and then went back to Oxford for my D. Phil in Experimental Psychology which I never finished. Instead I joined Unilever plc as a research scientist and stayed for 21 years messing about in psychophysics, artificial intelligence and knowledge management. That is how I came to move to Cheshire. I took early retirement from Unilever Research in 2003 (I survived 5 reorganisations and the 6th got me!), and decided to do something completely different, so I re-trained in clinical psychology at Derby Uni. and became a cognitive behavioural psychotherapist. Derby gave me an honorary lectureship when I qualified, so I combined that with working 3 days a week for the health service and running a consultancy based on my Unilever work. Nowadays I don’t travel to Derby any more (too far) so I just see patients 3 days a week and run round after my mother for the remaining two. What else ... I play the bassoon and piano when I’ve nothing better to do.

John married Marianne Goode at Portsmouth, Hampshire in 1982 and they have two children, Imogen and Clement.

## William Barber 1874-1952 & Ada Morris 1874-1963

**William Barber**, b. 16 Jan 1874 at Brighton, Sussex, d. 2 Nov 1952 at Brighton  
+ **Ada Morris**, b. 27 Aug 1874 at Little Horsted, Sussex, m. 9 Nov 1895 Brighton,  
d. 25 May 1963 at Haywards Heath, Sussex.  
— **(stillborn) Barber**, b. 1896 at Brighton, d. 1896 at Brighton  
— **Leslie Robert William Barber**, b. 18 Sep 1897 at Brighton, d. 19 Jul 1976 at Brighton  
+ **Victoria May Griffiths**, b. 10 Jul 1897 at Brighton, m. 9 Oct 1918 at Brighton,  
d. 23 Mar 1990 at Brighton  
— **Hazel May Barber**, b. 19 Jan 1919 at Brighton, d. 1975 at Brighton  
— **Ronald Leslie Barber**, b. 9 Jun 1920 at Brighton, d. 14 Jun 1990 at Victoria Park,  
W.Australia  
— **Douglas Robert Barber**, b. 28 Feb 1923 at Brighton, d. 21 Oct 1995 at Brighton



William Barber was born on 16 January 1874 at Brighton, Sussex. At the time of the 1891 census he lived at 78 Lincoln Street, Brighton, Sussex with his parents and family. His occupation was errand boy.<sup>285, 286</sup>

He wrote many letters while courting his future wife Ada Morris as she was working in service and had difficulty getting time off. Some of these letters were kept by Ada and have survived. They were given to Ron and Freda Barber after her death (see full transcription in Appendix VII).



In these letters dated 1894, William is 20 years old and living at 78 Lincoln St in Brighton (with his parents and siblings according to the 1891 census) while Ada is 19 years old and working in domestic service. She may have been living and working at 52 Coleman Street; just one street away, as this was her address at the time of her marriage in 1895. Ada obviously has difficulty getting time off work to see William and it appears that Thursday is the only day that they can see each other for any length of time.

**Fig. 67** William Barber c1900-1910.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

285 *Copy birth certificate of William Barber*, born 16 Jan 1874, reg. 27 Feb 1874 at Brighton, (GRO: Vol 2b Page 2316).

286 1891 Census for England, "RG12 piece 807 folio 110 page 44."



**Fig. 68** William Barber c1890(?) with probably a sister or sister-in-law.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

They share a common interest in reading books and the letters frequently mention William taking books to Ada. In the last letter William is very excited at being able to invite Ada to tea. His sister-in-law (would have to be Elizabeth Love Morley who married Robert John Barber in 1887) has taken a liking to Ada and has offered the invitation. Ada has not yet met William's mother. William thanks Ada for the boots that she has sent him.



**Fig. 69** The Brighton Aquarium on the sea front c1890-1900. William and Ada probably had many walks here while courting in the 1890s. *Brighton aquarium photochrom by Detroit Publishing Co., Library of Congress. Licensed under Public domain via Wikimedia Commons*



William married Ada Morris on 9 November 1895 at the Register Office in Brighton. He states his residence as 78 Lincoln Street and his occupation as house painter.<sup>287</sup>

Their first child was a stillborn male. Douglas Robert (Bob) Barber said he was strangled by his umbilical cord. Their son Leslie Robert William Barber was born on 18 September 1897. They were living at 3 Marlborough Street in Brighton and William's occupation was a decorator's porter. They had no more children after Leslie.<sup>288</sup>

At the time of the 1901 census William and Ada lived at 46 Windsor St in Brighton as boarders with their three year old son Leslie. William's occupation was a house painter.<sup>289</sup>

At the time of the 1911 census they lived at 36 Tillstone St, Brighton and remained there for the rest of their lives. William gives his occupation as a house decorator's labourer.<sup>290</sup>

Their son Leslie was married on 9 October 1918 and on the marriage certificate William's occupation is given as a transport worker.<sup>291</sup>

They remained very close to Leslie, living only a short distance away. Between WW1 and WW2 they both operated a fruit barrow in Brighton. Ada had bought a fruit barrow for Leslie as it was hard to get work after WW1 and she helped him run this on the corner of Western Rd and Crown St while William and "Uncle" Bill operated another barrow just across the road. This "Uncle" Bill was really a workmate of William who lived with William and Ada for some time.

On 5 April 1939 William and his brother Charles, a waterworks foreman, were granted administration of their brother Robert John Barber's estate valued at £958. Robert and his wife Elizabeth died within weeks of each other in early 1939 and left no children. William's occupation was given as decorator.<sup>292</sup>

It was reported by Freda Barber (nee Taylor) that "*William did have a sister who died. Her husband's name was Ocky who remarried Rhoda after the sister's death. Ocky and Rhoda sometimes visited William and Ada in Tillstone Street*". Subsequent

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287 Copy marriage certificate of William Barber and Ada Morris, marr. 9 Nov 1895 at Brighton (Vol 2b Page 508).

288 Copy birth certificate of Leslie R.W. Barber, born 18 Sep 1897, reg. 26 Oct 1897 at Brighton (Vol 2b Page 196).

289 1901 Census for England "RG13 piece 933 folio 117 page 33."

290 1911 Census for England "RG14 piece 5094 schedule no 144."

291 Copy marriage certificate of L R.W. Barber and V.M. Griffiths, marr. 9 Oct 1918 at Brighton, (Vol 2b Page 654).

292 National Probate Calendar, England & Wales (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, (High Court of Justice, England).



**Fig. 70** William Barber, painter and decorator. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

research has shown the sister to be Minnie Barber who married Octavius Knight (Ocky). Minnie died in 1940 and Ocky married Rhoda Seamer in 1942.

William Barber died on 2 November 1952 at Brighton General Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, aged 78, a retired house decorator. He died of fibroid myocardial degeneration, arterio sclerosis and diabetes mellitus. He was cremated.<sup>293</sup> Ada continued to live at 36 Tillstone St for a few more years and then moved to 237 Freshfield Road to live with her son's family.



**Fig. 71** William Barber with Ada, May, Hazel and Bob. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

293 *Copy death certificate of William Barber*, died 2 Nov 1952, reg. 3 Nov 1952 at Brighton, (Vol 5h Page 151).



Fig. 72 William and Ad Barber (seated) c1952. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



Ada Morris was born on 27 August 1874 at Little Horsted, Sussex, the daughter of Silas Morris and Martha Jeffery.<sup>294</sup> She worked in domestic service before getting married. In the 1891 census Ada was a servant, age 17 years, born Uckfield, working at 11 Chapel Place, Tunbridge Wells for Henry and Ann Slatter (Henry was a pianoforte dealer).

Fig. 73. Thought to be Ada Morris, 1892. It has on the back "My Mother age 18" and was with the Barber family photographs. The photographer, H J Spink, died in 1892 when Ada would have been 18 years old, and the photo is from the 1890s period. This type of photograph is called a "midget carte" and was the smallest format available for a commercial portrait. It was introduced in the 1880s but did not become widely popular until the 1890s. In 1894 a mid-range Sussex studio was charging 3s/6d per dozen. *Private collection of Anthony Barber*

294 Copy birth certificate of Ada Morris, born 27 Aug 1874, reg. 7 Oct 1874 at Uckfield, (Vol 2b Page 119).





**Fig. 74** Ada Barber  
(née Morris).  
*Private collection of  
Geoffrey Barber*

At some stage she moved to Brighton and while working in service met her future husband William Barber.

Ada is reported to have been a very independent and capable person who was good at cooking and crafts. She was a small person being less than five feet tall. She was raised in the country (Little Horsted and Uckfield) and always had strong ties to her family. Many family heirlooms were passed down to the family by her. She inherited many of her mother's belongings including her wedding ring, the Ben Jeffery letters sent by her mother's brother from New Zealand and her Grandmother Harriet Jeffery's bible. The bible was given to Ada in 1886 when she was 12 years old, a few years after Harriet died in 1883. The bible was inscribed "*From the Reverend Augustus W. Warde to Harriet Jeffery, Christmas Day 1861. The Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee*". Augustus Warde was the vicar at the Little Horsted parish church.

After William died in 1952 Ada continued to live at 36 Tillstone Street for a few more years and then moved to 237 Freshfield Road to live with her son's family. The happiness of the 1894 letters is contrasted by the sadness of a letter written



by Ada when she was a widow and well into her eighties. Ada wrote this letter to Ron and Freda Barber in Australia:

237 Freshfield Rd  
Brighton

My dear Ron & Freda and all. You asked me to write, but dears I am blind but think of you always you know dear is a tragedy to live too long, when you are dependent on others to do everything for you, but I'll never forget you all. Joey the bird talks to me, he is lonely I think of you always dears. Roy Gurr is coming home to see his people about Xmas. I think I'm sure you wont understand this, but dears I love you and think of you always so now dears I'll say all the best, love to you all, ever your dear old gran  
XXXXXXXXXX

Ada died on 25 May 1963 at St Francis Hospital, Haywards Heath, Sussex, aged 88 years, of bronchial pneumonia and senility.<sup>295</sup>



**Fig. 75** Ada Barber (née Morris), late 1950s. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

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<sup>295</sup> *Copy death certificate of Ada Barber*, died 25 May 1963, reg. 28 May 1963 at Cuckfield, Sussex (GRO: Vol 5H Page 220).

## Leslie R. W. Barber 1897-1976 & Victoria May Griffiths 1897-1990

**Leslie Robert William Barber**, b. 18 Sep 1897 at Brighton, Sussex, d. 19 Jul 1976 at Brighton

+**Victoria May Griffiths**, b. 10 Jul 1897 at Brighton, m. 9 Oct 1918 at Brighton, d. 23 Mar 1990 at Brighton

— **Hazel May Barber**, b. 19 Jan 1919 at Brighton, d. 1975 at Brighton

— **Ronald Leslie Barber**, b. 9 Jun 1920 at Brighton, d. 14 Jun 1990 at Victoria Park, W. Australia

+**Freda Amy Taylor**, b. 6 Sep 1922 at Brighton, m. 9 May 1942 at Moulsecoomb, Sussex, d. 13 Oct 2009 at Belmont, W. Australia

— **Anthony Ronald Barber**, b. 1 Jul 1943 at Brighton

— **Margaret Freda Barber**, b. 28 Dec 1944 at Brighton

— **Geoffrey Glenn Barber**, b. 15 Dec 1953 at Subiaco, W. Australia

— **Douglas Robert Barber**, b. 28 Feb 1923 at Brighton, d. 21 Oct 1995 at Brighton



Leslie Robert William Barber was born on 18 September 1897 at 3 Marlborough Street, Brighton, the only child of William Barber and Ada Morris.<sup>296</sup>

Leslie is said to have served an apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker at a shop in Gardner St although his wife May, at age 91 years, could not remember this. Before WW1 he worked as a furniture salesman at Potter's in Kensington Gardens, Brighton



**Fig. 76** Leslie Robert William Barber.  
*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

<sup>296</sup> *Copy birth certificate of Leslie R.W. Barber*, born 18 Sep 1897, reg. 26 Oct 1897 at Brighton (Vol 2b Page 196).



Fig. 77 2nd EG Hospital Brighton 18 April 1917. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



Fig. 78 Leslie Barber - front row, first from the right – 11 May 1919.  
*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



During WW1 he served as a Medic with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) at the 2nd Eastern General Hospital in Brighton (service no. 500200). He is unlikely to have served abroad and as a result does not appear to have been entitled to any campaign medals. The 2nd Eastern General Hospital was located at Portland Road, Hove (Brighton) and was originally a school.<sup>297</sup>



Fig. 79 Leslie Barber – front row with cigarette.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

Leslie married Victoria May Griffiths, daughter of Charles Richard Griffiths and Ann Elizabeth Godden, on 9 October 1918 at the Register Office in Brighton.<sup>298</sup> On the marriage certificate he gave his occupation as a Corporal R A M C / F u r n i t u r e Salesman. Victoria May was a letter carrier with the post office (GPO).

In 1920 when their son Ron was born he was a clerk in a motor garage. It was difficult to get work after the war and sometime after this Leslie's mother bought a barrow for him to use to sell fruit. He would buy fruit from the allotments and sell them off the barrow at the corner of Western Road & Crown

Street, Brighton. According to May they had quite a good trade. Leslie operated the barrow with the help of his mother Ada while his father William and an 'Uncle' Bill (who lived with William and Ada) operated another across the road on the corner of Western Road and Castle Street. 'Uncle' Bill was a workmate of William Barber ("he won a gold medal at billiards").

In 1925 Leslie and May lived at 6 Elder St, Brighton. About 1930 they moved to 237 Freshfield Road in Brighton. They lived here until about 1975 when they moved to 255 Freshfield Road and stayed there for the rest of their lives. They had three children – Hazel May, Ronald Leslie and Douglas Robert (Bob).

297 Webpage: *RAMC WW1 History* (<http://www.ramc-ww1.com/index.html>).

298 *Copy marriage certificate of L.R.W. Barber and V.M. Griffiths*, married 9 Oct 1918 at Brighton, (Vol 2b Page 654).





**Fig. 80** Leslie Barber with his fruit barrow in Brighton. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

During WW2 Leslie was an air-raid warden in the ARP (Air Raid Precautions), an organisation dedicated to the protection of civilians from the danger of air-raids. May was also in the ARP and the lawn in front of their house at 237 Freshfield Road was dug up as an air raid shelter. They both received the Defence Medal after the war.

Leslie could not get any fruit supplies during WW2 so worked as a porter at the Royal Sussex County Hospital and continued to do so after the war until he retired. His daughter Hazel also worked there as a nurse.



Leslie died on 19 July 1976 at Bevendean Hospital, Brighton, aged 78 years. He was cremated.<sup>299</sup> He died just a few days after his son Ron and his wife Freda had returned to Australia after visiting the family in Brighton.

**Fig. 81** May and Leslie Barber with their children (L to R): Bob, Ron and Hazel. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

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299 *Copy death certificate of Leslie RW Barber*, died 19 Jul 1976, reg. 19 Jul 1976 at Brighton (GRO: Vol 18, Page 0117).



**Fig. 82 (left)**  
Victoria May Griffiths in ARP uniform in a photograph dated 31 July 1942. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 83 (right)**  
Leslie and May Barber in later years. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

Victoria May Griffiths was born on 10 July 1897 at 1 Exeter St in Preston (part of Brighton near Preston Park), to parents Charles Richard Griffiths and Ann Elizabeth Godden. She was baptised on 8 August 1897 at St Luke's Church, Preston. She was known as Queenie by her brother before she was married, and May by her husband.<sup>300</sup>

The family were still living at 1 Exeter Street at the time of the 1901 census, but by 1911 they had moved to 21 Exeter Street. Her grandparents, William and Margaret Griffiths, lived just one street away at 26 Port Hall Place.<sup>301, 302</sup>

It is worthy of mention that a book was published in 1910 by George Meek, a first cousin once removed to Victoria May, which gives a wonderful description of the life lived by her great-grandfather, Benjamin Humphries, in Jevington and Eastbourne. The book was successful in England and the USA very much due to the introduction written by the famous author H.G. Wells who supported George Meek because of their common commitment to socialism. I suspect that Victoria and her family were unaware of this.<sup>303, 304</sup>

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300 *Copy birth certificate of Victoria May Griffiths*, born 10 Jul 1897, reg. 17 Aug 1897 at Steyning, (Vol 2b Page 278).

301 1911 Census for England "RG14 piece 5155 schedule no 87."

302 1901 Census for England "RG13 piece 940 folio 27 page 8."

303 George Meek, *George Meek Bath Chairman By Himself*, Constable & Co Ltd, London (1910).

304 Bill Coxall & Clive Griggs, *George Meek Labouring Man: Protégé of H.G. Wells*, New Millennium, London (1996).





**Fig. 85** (*above*) Victoria May Griffiths c1900. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

**Fig. 84** (*left*) Victoria May Griffiths and elder sister Annie Margaret Griffiths c1904. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 86.** Victoria May Griffiths was educated at Stanford Road School, Brighton, Sussex. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

May's first job was as a dressmaker for which she was paid one shilling per week. The job was found for her by the governess at her school. She worked at this until WW1 when she worked for the GPO as a letter carrier (her father also worked for the GPO as an indoor postman). She wrote a letter to her grandson Anthony Barber in 1976 in which she described the type of work. She said that she got one question wrong in her entrance test which meant that she had to work outside delivering letters rather than inside (presumably sorting letters).



**Fig. 87** Victoria May Griffiths at school (back row, first on right). *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 88** Victoria May Griffiths c1913. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 89** Victoria May Griffiths c1915. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 90** Victoria May Griffiths c1915. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



May had an older sister Annie Margaret and brother Frederick Charles. Annie married Frederick George Daw in 1913 at St Luke's church in Brighton. Fred Daw was a brewer's cooper and during WW1 served in the Home Counties Reserve Field Co. Royal Engineers and does not appear to have served overseas. After the war he was back working as a cooper at a brewery in Portslade and they appear to have moved there to live. They had a daughter Ivy Margaret Daw and a son Frederick Charles Daw. The known descendants of Annie and Fred's family are shown below:

**Annie Margaret Griffiths**, b. 1891 at Brighton, Sussex, d. 9 Aug 1967 at Brighton  
**+Frederick George Daw**, b. 1889 at Brighton, m. 20 Dec 1913 at Brighton, d. 1967 at Brighton  
 — **Ivy Margaret Daw**, b. 16 Apr 1915 at Steyning, Sussex, d. 16 Dec 1997 at Brighton  
 + **Robert J Brown**, b. c1916, m. 1939 at Hove, Sussex  
 — **Frederick J Brown**, b. 1940 at Brighton  
 — **Shiela M E Brown**, b. 1942 at Hove  
 — **Robert I Brown**, b. 1943 at Brighton  
 + **Barbara C Paine**, b. 1944 at Brighton, m. 1968 at Hove  
 — **Ian Edward Brown**, b. 1969 at Brighton  
 — **Neil Robert Brown**, b. 1971 at Brighton  
 + **John Edgar Moore**, b. 26 Jan 1916 at Brighton, m. 1953 at Brighton, d. Oct 2000 at Brighton  
 — **Frederick Charles Daw**, b. 23 Dec 1916 at Steyning, d. 4 Mar 1941, Egypt (WW2)



**Fig. 91** May's sister Annie Margaret Daw (née Griffiths) c1917, with children Frederick Charles Daw and Ivy Margaret Daw. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 92** Ann Elizabeth Griffiths (née Godden) and Charles Richard Griffiths with daughter Victoria May Griffiths. Note that Victoria and her mother are wearing Royal Sussex Regiment badges. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

May's brother Fred was a plumber's apprentice at the time of the 1911 census. When war broke out he enlisted in the 9th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment and was sent to France in October 1915. He wrote a number of postcards to his sister Queenie (May) which have been handed down the family (Fig. 94). On 12 April 1917 Fred died of wounds in the attack on Bois en Hache at Vimy Ridge in France (WW1). May had to go and tell his fiancé Louie as her mother could not do it. The photo in Fig. 92 was probably taken after Fred's death (possibly for May's wedding in 1918) and both May and her mother can be seen wearing Royal Sussex Regiment broaches. Fred's name is recorded on a number of memorials including the Royal Sussex Regiment Chapel inside Chichester Cathedral; the War Memorial in Old Steine, Brighton; and on a memorial at his old school in Stanford Rd, Brighton.

Leslie R.W Barber 1897-1976 & Victoria May Griffiths 1897-1990



**Fig. 93** G/2918 Private Frederick Charles Griffiths, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died of wounds 12 April 1917 from fighting at Bois en Hache near Souchez in France. Buried Plot 1 Row K Grave 10, Chocques Military Cemetery, France. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

**Fig. 94** (*below*) One of a number of postcards Fred sent from France to his sister Queenie (May). *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



After Leslie died in 1976 May continued to live at 255 Freshfield Road with her son Bob until she started to have difficulty looking after herself and one day fell down the stairs in the house while Bob was at work. Bob moved her to St. Ann's Rest Home, 9 Stanford Ave in Brighton. By that time she had developed Parkinson's disease which caused her hands to shake a little although not too badly for her age. Bob would visit her every weekend. She was 87 years old when I first met her at St Ann's and she was still bright and mentally active but a little hard of hearing.





**Fig. 95** Fred Griffiths with his fiancée Louie. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

I first visited her in June 1985 and again in September 1988 when Bob and I took her for a number of outings in our hire car. She was very keen to talk about her family and enjoyed reminiscing over some old photographs of herself and her family. She particularly remembered the time when her brother Fred was killed in WW1 and she had to go and tell his fiancé. She also mentioned that the Salvation Army had later taken her mother to France to see his grave.

Victoria May died on 23 March 1990 at 9 Stanford Avenue, Brighton aged 92. She was found in her bed in the morning having died in her sleep. She was cremated the following Friday. Her son Bob was then our only family left in Brighton until he died in 1995.<sup>305</sup>



**Fig. 96** The visit to Fred's grave at Chocques, France on 2 May 2012.

L to R: Anthony Barber, Brendan Barber, Vera Barber, Geoffrey Barber, Julitha Barber and Logan Barber.

*Photo: Geoffrey Barber, May 2012*

<sup>305</sup> Copy death certificate of Victoria May Barber, died 23 Mar 1990, reg. 26 Mar 1990 at Brighton (GRO: Vol 18, Page 95, Reg 03/90).



## Hazel May Barber 1919-1975

Hazel was a nurse at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. Although she never married she did have a boyfriend during WW2 who was a Canadian serviceman. She wrote letters to him after he returned to Canada but she did not receive any replies. According to neighbours she was bitter to her father who she thought had burnt the letters sent by him (although most think this not to be true and that the Canadian was probably already married). She died in 1975 at Brighton of diabetes but also had tuberculosis.



**Fig. 97** Hazel Barber, 1948.  
*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 98** Hazel (on the right) working as a nurse at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.  
*Private Collection of Geoffrey Barber*



## Douglas Robert (Bob) Barber 1923-1995

Bob was very shy and also never married. His brother Ron's wife, Freda, said that Bob was so shy that in the early years of their marriage he would be uncomfortable if left alone in the room with her. Bob lived with his parents all his life and was left living alone at 255 Freshfield Road when his mother could no longer look after herself and went to live at St Anne's Rest Home. He stayed there until he died in 1995.

**Fig. 99** Bob Barber in 1961. *Private Collection of Geoffrey Barber*

Bob was a bus conductor then later a cashier with the Brighton Borough Transport bus company for most of his life but he did also serve in WW2. His record of service shows that his final rank was Trooper (service no. 7958232) enlisting with the Royal Armoured Corps on 30 April 1942 and serving with the 6th Royal Tank Regiment, the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and the 17th/21st Lancers up to 1947. He appears to have undertaken training in gun mechanics and his release document states *“has marked practical ability having passed more than requisite tests in the army. Is fully recommended for practical work of any nature as he shows a distinct flair. Honest & trustworthy.”*

I have fond memories of visiting Bob in his retirement and staying at 255 Freshfield Road. He took me to lunch at the bus company dining room and introduced me to some of his friends. We also went to bingo one evening at which I won £100! But it is the memory of the house, virtually untouched since Grandma left, that is strongest and most easily recalled in my mind today.

Bob collapsed and died at 9:30pm on 21 October 1995 at the Gala Theatre in Brighton in the company of his friend and neighbour Ruby Commons while playing the poker machines at a bingo evening, his favourite pastime. The Gala Theatre used to be known as the Astoria Cinema and was where his brother Ron got his first job. Ruby phoned his family in Australia at 5:00am Perth time and by 6:00pm that day my brother Tony and I were flying to England to arrange his funeral and settle his affairs.

Bob was cremated at Downs Crematorium and a get-together was held afterwards at the Freshfield Inn in Freshfield Road for his neighbours and friends. Bob was the only member of the family to have visited Australia (three times). This really was the passing of an era as Bob was the last Barber in our family to live in Brighton. He was a gentle and thoughtful man.



**Fig. 100** Bob Barber returning home from work as a conductor with the Brighton Borough Transport bus company.  
*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

## Ronald Leslie Barber 1920-1990 & Freda Amy Barber 1922-2009

**Ronald Leslie Barber**, b. 9 Jun 1920 at Brighton, Sussex, d. 14 Jun 1990 at Victoria Park, W. Australia

+**Freda Amy Taylor**, b. 6 Sep 1922 at Brighton, Sussex, m. 9 May 1942 at Moulsecoomb, Sussex, d. 13 Oct 2009 at Belmont, W. Australia

— **Anthony Ronald Barber**, b. 1943 at Brighton, Sussex

+**Catherine Veronica England**, b. 1947 at Londonderry, Ireland, m. 1967 at Mt Lawley, W. Australia

— **Brendan Anthony Barber**, b. 1968 at Mt Lawley, W. Australia

— **Veronica Evelyn Barber**, b. 1971 at Mt Lawley, W. Australia

+**Geoffrey William Parker**, b. 1954 at Merewether, NSW, m. 1997 at Broome, W. Australia

— **William Anthony Parker**, b. 1999 at Broome, W. Australia

— **Michael Geoffrey Parker**, b. 2001 at Broome, W. Australia

— **Jeremy George Parker**, b. 2005 at Broome, W. Australia

— **Margaret Freda Barber**, b. 1944 at Brighton, Sussex

+**Francis Leo Tobin**, b. 25 Sep 1939 at Pemberton, W. Australia, m. 1962 at Victoria Park, W. Australia, d. 17 Feb 1995 at Perth, W. Australia

— **Wayne Francis Tobin**, b. 1963 at Subiaco, W. Australia

+**Merryn Lee Brown**, b. 1964 at Carlton, Victoria, m. 2000 at Burswood, W. Australia

— **Craig Leslie Tobin**, b. 1966 at Subiaco, W. Australia

+**Glenda Raelene Quinn**, b. 1963 at Perth, W. Australia

— **Rhonda Marie Tobin**, b. 1971 at Mt Lawley, W. Australia

+**Philip Graham**, b. 1969 at Leeds, Yorkshire, England, m. 2004 at Belmont, W. Australia

— **Ashley Marie Graham**, b. 1997 at Perth, W. Australia

— **Krystal Georgia Graham**, b. 2000 at Perth, W. Australia

— **Geoffrey Glenn Barber**, b. 1953 at Subiaco, W. Australia

+**Julitha Michele Brown**, b. 1954 at Mt Lawley, W. Australia, m. 1975 at Cottesloe, W. Australia

— **Terran Ambrose Barber**, b. 1980 at Subiaco, W. Australia

+**Emma Jane Groves**, b. 1980 at Perth, m. 2006 at West Perth, W. Australia

— **Corbin Ambrose Barber**, b. 2012 at Subiaco, W. Australia

— **Logan Emrys Barber**, b. 1982 at Attadale, W. Australia

— **Eleanor Amelia Barber**, b. 1987 at Attadale, W. Australia

+**Zoe Damon Richards**, b. 1984 at Wodonga, Victoria, m. 2008 at East Perth, W. Australia

— **Eveline Freda Richards**, b. 2011 at Joondalup, W. Australia

— **Jacoby Paul Richards**, b. 2012 at Joondalup, W. Australia



Ronald Leslie Barber was born on 9 June 1920 at 8 Old Shoreham Road, Brighton, Sussex.<sup>306</sup>

He attended St. Luke's School and was in the Boy's Brigade for a long time. This was held in a church in Islingworth Road (Fig. 101).

Ron was 14 years of age when he started work as a page boy at the Astoria cinema in Brighton (Fig. 102). Ron had hopes of becoming a projectionist but this did not eventuate and instead he did an apprenticeship as a book binder before joining the Navy in 1939 just before WW II.



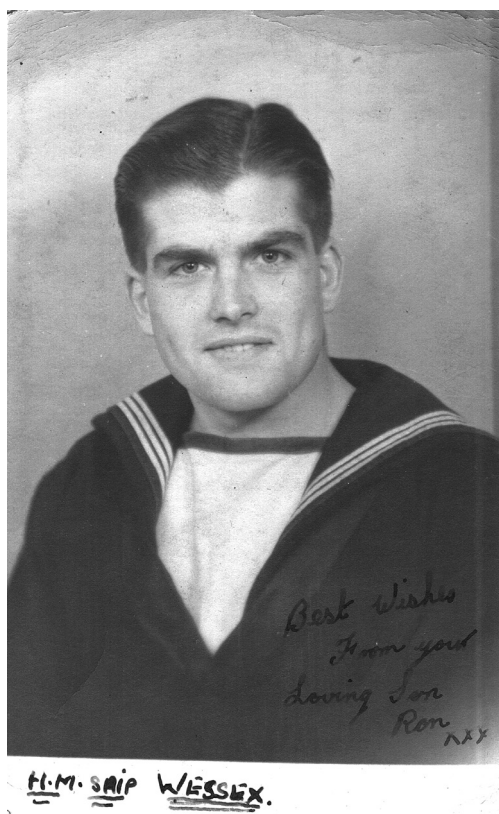
**Fig. 101**  
Boys Brigade in  
the early 1930s.  
Ron is third from  
the right in the  
back row and his  
brother Douglas  
Robert (Bob)  
Barber is second  
from the left in the  
back row.  
*Private collection of  
Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 102**  
Ron Barber  
working as a  
page boy at the  
Astoria Cinema in  
Brighton, Sussex,  
c1934.  
*Private collection of  
Geoffrey Barber*

306 *Copy birth certificate of Ronald Leslie Barber, born 9 Jun 1920, reg. 22 Jun 1920 at Brighton (GRO: Vol 2b Page 487).*





**Fig. 103** Ron Barber served in the Royal Navy at the start of WW2.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

He was on the destroyer *Wessex* when it was sunk off St Lessaire (on the French coast) by a bomb falling down its funnel. They were picked up by the Polish destroyer *Vimiera* which took them back to Dover. His arm was injured during this incident and he was invalided out of the Navy on 25 December 1942.

Ron was working at the Allen and West factory in Brighton making electrical equipment for submarines (ASDICS gear) when he met Freda Amy Taylor who was also working there on the engraving machines. They married on 9 May 1942 at Moulsecoomb (near Brighton).<sup>307</sup>

Ron and Freda moved to 21 Hartington Road, Brighton in 1943 when Freda was expecting Tony and lived there until about 1948/49. After this they lived at 18 The Ridgeway (now Ridge View), Coldean, Brighton. This was their last residence before leaving for Australia.



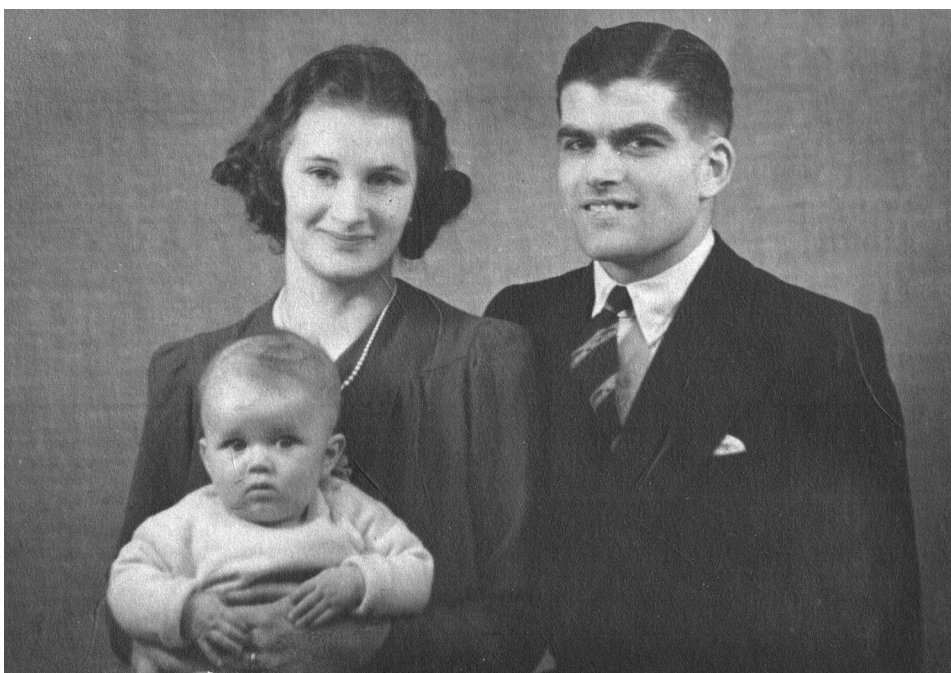
**Fig. 104** The complete wedding party for Ron and Freda Barber, 9 May 1942.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

307 Copy marriage certificate of R.L. Barber and F.A. Taylor, married 9 May 1942 at Brighton, (GRO: Vol 2b, Page 604).



**Fig. 105**  
Ron and Freda Barber on their wedding  
day 9 May 1942 at Moulsecroomb, Sussex.  
*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 106** Photo taken not long after Ron and Freda were married – about 1944 after Tony  
was born. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 107**

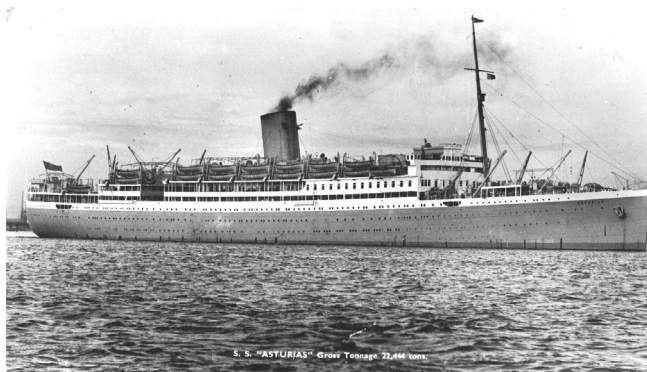
Ron working as a conductor with Brighton Borough Transport c1948.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

About 1945 Ron had a job making metal scroll furniture where he learnt to weld. This was to prove useful when he looked for employment in Australia. Between 1946 and 1950 Ron was a bus conductor with Brighton Borough Transport. He really enjoyed this and looking back in later years considered it to be the best job he ever had.

In April 1948 Freda's parents Ada and Arthur Taylor and her brother and sisters all emigrated to Perth, Western Australia leaving Freda and Ron in Brighton. Her brother Ron had initially mentioned his interest in moving overseas to Canada, and then Arthur and Ada had become interested. Some of Ada's family had moved to Australia at various times in the past and this probably influenced their decision to choose Australia instead. Two years later, after receiving encouraging reports about employment and wages in Australia, Ron and Freda also emigrated, departing Southampton on 11 May 1950 with son Tony age six years and daughter Margaret age five years. Freda said that the main benefit of moving to Australia was that they now had money left over each week to save, whereas in England they were just living week to week on £4/week.

They arrived in Australia with about £60 and first stayed with Freda's parents, Arthur and Ada Taylor, at 84 Egham Road Victoria Park. Soon after arrival Freda went with her mother to purchase the block of land at 87 Enfield Street (the block immediately behind 84 Egham Road). Arthur and Ada had paid £50 for their block just two years ago and it was quite a shock to Freda to find that hers was to cost £140. Never the less, the real estate agent showed her the plans for the suburb and convinced Freda that the price was not going to get any cheaper



**Fig. 108**

S.S. *Asturias* – the ship on which Ron and Freda sailed to Australia in 1950. It brought many immigrants to Australia over the years.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*





**Fig. 109** Ron and Freda Barber on the ship Asturias on the voyage to Australia in 1950 with children Tony and Margaret.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 110** Tony and Margaret photographed on arrival at Fremantle harbour, 5 June 1950.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

so on the 13 June 1950 Freda signed a contract to purchase the block of land at 87 Enfield St for £140 from the Estates Development Company Pty Ltd. The subdivision was called St Andrew's Estate.

Ron obtained work with a firm in Welshpool called Structural Engineering and by July 1950 was a 2nd class welder. One month after arriving Freda had also started work as a cook in a restaurant in the city (Perth) and did this for 12-18 months during 1950 to 1952. Work hours were 11.00am to 7:00pm for five days/week. The money she earned went towards building their house.

Ron and Freda's brother-in-law John Treen was a builder and drew their house plans which were approved on 29 September 1950. On the 9th February 1951 the certificate of title to 87 Enfield St was issued and mortgages were raised



**Fig. 111**

Ron Barber working at Structural Engineering in their workshop at Welshpool. He worked there for 22 years. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



on the property on 16 March 1951, 17 April 1951, 6 July 1951 to pay for the house as it was being built. Ron worked at building the house with the help of John, this being John's first house as a registered builder. They first built a small wash house and Ron and Freda lived in this while the main house was being built, cooking on a primus stove and bathing Tony and Margaret in the wash troughs. They started living in the wash house early 1951 and the house took two to three years to finish. Everyone in England had previously rented their house so this was a major achievement for them. The mortgages were eventually discharged on 12 June 1963.

On 10 April 1957 Ron was awarded his "A" Grade Welder in Electric Arc Welding certificate by the Australian Welding Institute.



**Fig. 112** The house that Ron and Freda built at 87 Enfield Street, Lathlain Park, (photo c1960). *Private collection of Anthony Barber*



**Fig. 113** The wash house that Ron and Freda lived in while building their house. Photo taken just before demolition of the house in 2012. The property was purchased by Ron & Freda's granddaughter, Veronica Parker (née Barber) and her husband Geoff Parker, who built a new house on what had become a valuable quarter acre block of land close to the city of Perth.

*Private collection of Anthony Barber*



**Fig. 114**  
Ron Barber working  
at Talgarno, 1960.  
*Private collection of  
Geoffrey Barber*

In 1960 Ron spent three months working in Western Australia's north-west for Structural Engineering on the Talgarno rocket township (between Broome and Port Hedland). Structural Engineering had won the contract to provide steel and steel fabrication, etc. Talgarno was a township established in the target area for testing rockets from Woomera:

The Talgarno Prohibited Area had been proclaimed in December 1958 as the place into which the warheads would fall after their continent-spanning flights. Most of Talgarno was part of the Great Sandy Desert. Even this very remote area was not quite uninhabited, though the average population density was small indeed. Along the coastal strip were five station homesteads, about 200 Europeans in all. In one corner of the area was the Aboriginal mission of LaGrange, home to about 120 children with about the same number of adults in camps nearby. Finally, a small number of nomadic Aborigines were thought to be wandering the desert, although even the experts knew little definite about their movements. That was it, in an area bigger than France.

The physical conditions of life at Talgarno were tough and were described in a report by the sole security officer posted there:

The climate at Talgarno in summer months (wet season) is enervating and oppressive, the flies intolerable, and the dust distracting. Temperatures have been known to rise to 114°F. There is no relief from these conditions in

either tented or prefab accommodation. The local beach area is mainly silt and is subjected to disturbance by tides. Swimming is out of the question as the sea at Talgarno abounds in sharks and sea lice.<sup>308</sup>

On 20 August 1961 Ron was awarded his supervisor's certificate in electric arc welding by the Australian Welding Institute. I remember him taking me to the Structural Engineering factory in Welshpool one weekend to see the results of a major welding project they had done – huge cylinders & tanks loaded up on long semi-trailers about to be driven up north to a mine site somewhere. I was very impressed by the number of wheels on the semi-trailer.

Freda's mother, Ada Taylor, had died in 1958 and her father Arthur Taylor lived with them at various times between 1958 and 1965 (Arthur also lived with daughters Joyce and Betty during this time). Ron and Arthur would often be sitting out in the shade house having a drink after work or on the weekend. Arthur was living with Ron & Freda when he died in 1965.

Ron worked for Structural Engineering for 22 years becoming Leading Hand and then Supervisor. He had just been put on as staff when the firm collapsed in 1972. This was so disappointing for Ron and with only a few years to go to retirement he found work as a welder at the Forward Down Engineering factory becoming involved in the Australian Metalworkers Union as a shop steward. Ron retired in 1979 aged 60.

Ron enjoyed a beer and a bet on the horse races. He was a member of the Perth Football Cub for a period of time and later in life tried bowls at the Lathlain-Carlisle Lawn Bowling Club. In retirement he enjoyed



**Fig. 115**  
Ron and Freda Barber  
with neighbour  
Mrs Felstead, 1960s.  
*Private collection of  
Geoffrey Barber*

308 Peter Morton, 'TESTING BLUE STREAK AT WOOMERA: An Episode in Anglo-Australian Collaboration and Conflict', *Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, WORKING PAPER NO 32*, 1988, "<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/ahri/centres/menzies/research/Publications/Workingpapers/WP32Morton.pdf>."



his time at home but was reluctant to do anything too adventurous which frustrated Freda to some degree. I think he became anxious rather easily and was reluctant to move out of his comfort zone. Ron also enjoyed listening to records of Frank Sinatra, Tijuana Brass, Black & White Minstrel Show, Sound of Music, etc. and watching television.

Ron returned to Brighton to see his parents in 1970 and (with Freda) 1976. On his last visit in 1976 his father was in hospital and died just days after Ron and Freda returned home. Much to his regret, his last visit to see his father was tainted by an argument over a request for a cigarette, as the doctors had said he was not allowed to smoke and Ron would not give him one.

Ronald Leslie Barber died on 14 June 1990 at 87 Enfield St, Victoria Park, WA, age 70 years.<sup>309</sup> He died in the early evening in bed at home of a heart attack. The family quickly gathered at 87 Enfield St to comfort Freda. The police had to be called initially as was routine for a death at home, but they were very polite and understanding. His body was cremated on 18 June 1990 and his ashes are at Section MC, Site 17 Position 16, Karrakatta, WA.

Ron had really missed his family and the social aspects of his earlier life in England. He often said that the best job he ever had was when he was working on the buses where he was meeting people all the time. The isolation caused by life in the suburbs



and working in a factory in Australia during the 1950s & 60s created some regrets which were not shared by Freda as her whole family had also emigrated to WA in 1948. It is fair to say that their descendants owe Ron and Freda a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices and hardships they endured as many are now reaping the benefits of their decision to move to Australia.

**Fig. 116** My favourite photo of Ron and Freda Barber taken c1982 with grandson Terran Barber. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

<sup>309</sup> *Copy death certificate of Ronald Leslie Barber*, died 14 Jun 1990, registered 5 Jul 1990 at Perth, Western Australia (Registrar of BMDs, Western Australia, Reg No: 1/2605/90/T).



**Fig. 117** (*right*) The house at 72 Islingword Road, Brighton. ©Google 2013 - Street View 16Aug 2013



Freda Amy Taylor was born on 6 September 1922 at 72 Islingword Road, Brighton, Sussex (Fig 117). She was the daughter of Arthur George Taylor and Ada Winifred Middleton.<sup>310</sup>

Arthur Taylor had joined the Royal Navy in 1915 at the age of 16 years but put his age up by two years when he applied. He was the only “survivor” of the ship *Pigeon* which went down with all hands. Arthur had been taken off the ship *before* she sailed because he was ill. He was also in the Battle of Jutland. He stayed with the Naval Reserve after the war and rejoined in WW2 rising



**Fig. 118**  
Ada Taylor  
with baby  
Freda. *Private  
collection of  
Geoffrey Barber*

310 *Copy birth certificate of Freda Amy Taylor*, born 6 Sep 1922, reg. 2 Oct 1922 at Brighton (GRO: Vol 2b Page 263)



**Fig. 119** Freda Taylor (the tallest) with Joyce, Win and Ron, August 1936, August 1936 at Whitehawk. Is that Ada in the window? *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

to the rank of Petty Officer. According to his daughter Joyce, Arthur always carried a caul (a thin veil of skin on a new born baby's face). It was believed that possession of a baby's caul would give its bearer good luck and protect that person from death by drowning. Cauls were therefore highly prized by sailors (in medieval times, women often sold these cauls to sailors for large sums of money). Joyce says maybe it worked, because Arthur came close to being lost a sea a couple of times but always pulled through.

Arthur had met Ada while working as a milkman before WW1. He would exchange a bottle of milk for a cup of cocoa with Ada who was working in domestic service at this time. When Arthur returned from WW1 he had trouble finding work and Ada used to let him in through a window to where she worked as a cook and give him a meal. Ada was still working in domestic service as a cook just prior to them getting married in 1921. Their first child died soon after birth, only living for 19 hours. Freda was born next and was the eldest of a family of five girls and one son.

From about 1931 Freda and her family lived at 19 Fletching Road, Whitehawk (East Brighton). The photo in Fig. 119 was taken at Whitehawk in August 1936 and possibly shows their house in the background. Unfortunately parts of Whitehawk were remodelled in the late 1970s and Fletching Road no longer exists.



Freda started work at 14 years of age in domestic service at a house for Thai students in Lewes Crescent. She trained there as a parlour maid and had to live in. She left there 12 months later for a similar job in Roedean which was day work only. Freda was later waitressing at a sea front hotel and then left to go to the Allen and West factory. She started on the drills and then trained as an engraving machinist. It was at Allen and West that Freda later met Ron Barber. She was living with her parents at 142 Birdham Road, Moulsecoomb (near Brighton) when they married on 9 May 1942 at Moulsecoomb.<sup>311</sup>

**Fig. 120** Freda Taylor as a young girl.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 121** The Taylor children in 1935 - Freda the tallest, with Joyce, Betty and Winnie in the front. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

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<sup>311</sup> *Copy marriage certificate of R.L. Barber and F.A. Taylor, married 9 May 1942 at Brighton, (GRO: Vol 2b, Page 604).*





**Fig. 122**  
Freda Taylor in domestic service in the late 1930s. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 123**  
Ada Taylor with daughters Freda and Pat. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. 124**  
Beautiful photo of Freda Taylor as a young girl in Brighton, Sussex. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*





**Fig. 125**

Freda Taylor on her wedding day with her father Arthur George Taylor. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

In Australia during the 1950's and 60's, Freda was a home maker for the family. With the children at school she helped in the school tuck shop and the Parents and Citizens Association (we always looked forward to the days when Mum was at the tuck shop as she always made sure we got something special for lunch). Freda was a very good knitter and made pullovers and cardigans for everyone in the family. She would often be knitting while watching television in the evenings with the family. She was very disciplined with the housework, having particular days set aside for certain tasks such as washing, shopping, vacuuming & cleaning, etc. She kept a very clean and tidy house.

Later when the children had grown up she was keen to go travelling and, with husband Ron, made trips to Bali, Penang, New Zealand and the UK. However, as Ron got older he became more inclined to stay at home, not wanting to do much, which often frustrated Freda.

The grandchildren were a source of great satisfaction. She was a wonderful Nanna who accepted everyone as they were. She doted on them and when they stayed

overnight she would often make them breakfast in bed (usually their favourite – pancakes with lemon and sugar)! The grandchildren thought the world of her and would often tell her things that they would not tell their parents.

After Ron's death in 1990, Freda became active as a volunteer at the Harold Hawthorn Senior Citizens Centre (helping with the cooking) and at an Anglican charity shop. For many years she attended an exercise group at the Perth Town Hall called Prime Movers and also attended many free lunch time concerts there (the Tuesday Show). And, of course, her grandchildren were always dropping in or staying overnight. She also enjoyed spending time on her garden.

Freda Amy Barber (née Taylor) died on 13 October 2009 at 3 Bellis Place, Belmont, WA aged 87 years. She died at the home of her daughter, Margaret Tobin. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in April and moved in with Margaret after a period in hospital where she had an operation to create a bypass for her stomach to be able to digest food (the tumour was interfering with this) and give her some quality of life for the time she had remaining. She only started

to deteriorate significantly in the last few weeks and was very calm and dignified all this time. She died at 10:30am with her children around her. The rest of the family arrived when they heard the news, and the women cleaned and washed her prior to the undertaker arriving. She was much loved by the whole family, especially by all her grandchildren. Her funeral was held at Karrakatta cemetery at 10:00am on Monday 19 October 2009 with everyone departing to the Vera Lynn song *White Cliffs of Dover*.

Her body was cremated and her ashes are at Section MC, Site 17 Position 16, Karrakatta, WA.<sup>312</sup>

**Fig. 126** Freda Barber with Tony and Margaret in England, c1949. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



312 *Copy death certificate of Freda Amy Barber*, died 13 Oct 2009, registered 20 Oct 2009 in Perth, Western Australia (Registrar of BMDs, Western Australia, Reg No: 010705T/2009).



**Fig. 127** Freda Barber with son Geoffrey c1958 outside the Commonwealth Bank building in Forrester Place, Perth.

*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*





# APPENDIX I

## The Drapers Property in Rotherfield

The property known as Drapers (sometimes written as Drapyers) is located in the High Cross area of Rotherfield adjacent to a property called Grubreed: “*Drapers fronts the Mayfield Rd between Grubreed Cottages and Lew farm*”.<sup>313</sup> It is shown on the 1597 survey (map) of the manor of Rotherfield where it is noted as being 27 acres 0 roods and 10 perches in size, but in a lease dated 1662 is described as 22 acres.

A list of tax payers in the 1296 Sussex subsidy roll for Rotherfield includes an Alexander Draper and Pullein links him to the property suggesting that he was probably one of the earliest owners. Drapers is last mentioned in the 1911 census and although use of the name may have continued after this it appears not to be used today. The property was in the Barber alias Nynne family for over 200 years from before c1580 to 1787. Various documents show that it was a valuable source of timber and was also used for crops, animals and fellmongering (mentioned in wills of 1627, 1683 and 1799).

The centre point of the property can be located using Google Earth at latitude 51.039377° North; longitude 0.223864° East.

### HISTORY TIMELINE FOR DRAPERS

- 1296 Alexander Draper is listed in the Sussex subsidy roll (list of tax payers) for “*Retherfeld (Villat’ de Suth’ [borgh])*” suggesting that his family may have been owners and given their name to the property. Pullein analyses the subsidy roll in detail and supports this conclusion.<sup>314, 315</sup>
- 1509 Thomas Morley pays yearly rent of ijd (2 pence) for Drapers to Rotherfield Church.<sup>316</sup>
- 1580 Sometime before 1580 the property was purchased by John Nynne alias Barber. Catherine Pullein's notes mentions an undated Quit Rental record which she says would be dated before Feb 1580: “*John Nynn. For 12 acres of freland called Drapers lying between scottyll croch and fathermans. For 10 1/2 acres (ditto)*”.<sup>317</sup>

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313 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, Courier, Tunbridge Wells, First Edition (1928) (East Sussex County Record Office) page 235.

314 Sussex subsidy of 1296: The rape of Pevensey, *The three earliest subsidies for the county of Sussex: 1296, 1327, 1332* (1910), pp. 19-40. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=65845> Date accessed: 11 October 2014.

315 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, Courier, Tunbridge Wells, First Edition (1928) (East Sussex County Record Office) p. 56.

316 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, Courier, Tunbridge Wells, First Edition (1928) (East Sussex County Record Office) p. 235.

317 Private notebook of Catherine Pullein (Sussex Archaeological Society's Barbican Library, Lewes) from the box file marked “Pullein” in the Working Papers Room, p. 108.

- 1591 Following the burial of John Nynne on 15 May 1591, the manorial court of 23 September 1591 records: "*Comes George Nynne (makes homage that he?) holds of the lord certain lands called Drapers cont. 22 1/2 ac. by rent of 22 1/2d*", of which John Nynne his father died seised".<sup>318</sup>
- 1597 The property is drawn on the 1597 survey of the manor of Rotherfield map and shows Georg Barbar [*sic*] as the freehold owner and indicates the size of the property as 27 acres 0 roods and 10 perches.<sup>319</sup>
- 1627 The property transfers to Thomas Barber alias Nynne on the death of his father George Nynne alias Barber.<sup>320</sup>
- 1649 On the death of Thomas Barber alias Nynne of Rotherfield the property is held by his wife Ann Barber for the rest of her life under a jointure and lease agreement. Ann Barber remarried Samuel Theobald of Tonbridge and they occupied the property (and also the Bonnetts cottage in Rotherfield town).<sup>321, 322</sup>
- 1662 On coming of age, Thomas Barber alias Ninne leases Drapers and the cottage in Rotherfield town from his mother Ann for the rent of £11/5s per year thus providing her with an income. He will automatically inherit it on her death. Thomas is working in Frant at this time and later moves to Tonbridge where he marries Mary Rootes in 1672 and has a family.<sup>323</sup>
- 1684 Recently widowed, Mary Barber leases Drapers to John Lockyer of Rotherfield for 11 years at £6/10s per year.<sup>324</sup>
- 1690/91 According to Pullein, the Rates Book shows by 1690/91 John Moone of Rotherfield "for some years had held ..... Drapers". Assuming this is referring to the same property, Moone would have been the occupier as opposed to the proprietor or owner. Pullein incorrectly ascribes the ownership to Holman.<sup>325</sup>
- 1720 A record survives of Mary Barber paying the annual rent for Drapers to the manor of Rotherfield "*Mary Barber of Tunbridge, widow for Drapers 3s/4d.*"<sup>326</sup>

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318 Private notebook of Catherine Pullein c1925 (Sussex Archaeological Society's Barbican Library, Lewes) from the box file marked "Pullein" in the Working Papers Room, p. 108.

319 Map of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1597 (ESRO, ACC 363/111).

320 Sussex Archaeological Society, Transcription, 24 Jul 1627, Rotherfield, Sussex (ESRO, SAS AB 397).

321 Transcript of the Parish Register of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, (ESRO, PAR 465).

322 Sussex Archaeological Society, Transcription, 7 Jan 1661/2, Rotherfield, Sussex, (ESRO, SAS FA 781).

323 Sussex Archaeological Society, Transcription, 7 Jan 1661/2, Rotherfield, Sussex, (ESRO, SAS FA 781).

324 Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

325 Catherine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, Courier, Tunbridge Wells, First Edition (1928) (ESRO) p. 156.

326 Rentals of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 22 Apr 1720 (ESRO: ACC 2953/130).

- 1732 Mary Barber buried in Tonbridge. While no will or transfer record has been found, Drapers passed to her second son Thomas Barber of Tonbridge (his elder brother Richard had died in 1722).<sup>327</sup>
- 1749 Thomas Barber leaves the property in his will to his nephew, Thomas Barber, eldest son of Richard and Margaret Barber.
- 1754 Thomas Barber died prematurely in 1754 leaving the property with his widow, Elizabeth Barber of Tonbridge, and their only child Thomas born 1752.<sup>328</sup>
- 1750-64 Land tax records show the property owned by “Mr. Barber” but leased to John Parsons.<sup>329</sup>
- 1776 Elizabeth Barber released her one third interest in the properties of her late husband (her dower as he died intestate) to her 23 year old son Thomas for the nominal sum of 2 shillings and he agrees to provide her with a lifetime income of £20 p.a.<sup>330</sup>
- 1765-87 Land tax records show the property was owned by “Mr. Barber” but leased to William Peerless.<sup>331</sup>
- 1788 William Peerless appears on the land tax records as the owner of the property. It is presumed that Thomas sold the property in 1787.<sup>332</sup>
- 1800 The will of William Peerless, a glover and fell monger, leaves Drapers to his son Henry Peerless with his younger son William Peerless having the right to occupy and make a living from the property as long as he remains in Rotherfield and continues in business as a glover and fellmonger.<sup>333</sup>
- 1861 A cottage at the location “Drapers” next to Grubreed is occupied by agricultural labourer George Richeson and wife Ann and children, George, Flora and William.<sup>334</sup>
- 1871 A cottage at the location “Drapers” next to Grubreed is occupied by William Haywood, a jobbing gardener, and his wife Betsy and daughter Eliza.<sup>335</sup>

*continued page 215*

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327 Transcript of the Parish Register of Tonbridge, Kent, England, 1547-1730 (KHLC, TR 2451/20).

328 Will of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, England, 16 May 1749, proved 16 Jun 1749 (The National Archives, Kew, PROB 11/770/346).

329 Land Tax of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1750-1779 (ESRO, XA31/24).

330 Woodgate Family, Indenture, Release of Dower, Elizabeth Barber to Mr. Thomas Barber, her son, 29 January 1776., (KHLC, U1109 T17).

331 Land Tax of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1750-1779 (ESRO, XA31/24).

332 Land Tax of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1750-1779 (ESRO, XA31/24).

333 Will of William Peerless of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 9 Feb 1799, proved in the Probate Court of Lewes, 7 Nov 1800 (ESRO).

334 1861 Census for England, “RG09 piece 574 folio 7 page 8.”

335 1871 Census for England, “RG10 piece 1050 folio 10 page 12.”





Fig. AI-1 Drapers on the 1597 map of Rotherfield. Compare this to the 2011 Google Earth image in Fig. AI-2. ESRO: ACC/0363/111



- 1881 No reference to “Drapers”. The cottage at this location was now called “Spring Cottage”. The name of its’ neighbouring property “Grubreed”, however, was still being used.<sup>336</sup>
- 1911 The household next to Grub Reed cottages is given the postal address of “Drapers, Rotherfield”, indicating that the name was still in use. The house was occupied by Alfred and Ada Crittall and their two sons. Alfred was a general labourer. The name had not been forgotten. Is it still remembered today?<sup>337</sup>



Fig. A1-2 Drapers in 2011 on Google Earth. ©2011 Google

336 1881 Census for England, “RG11 piece 1050 folio 5 page 4.”

337 1911 Census for England, “RG14 piece 4935 schedule no 62.”

## APPENDIX II

### The Bonnetts and Bachelands Properties in Rotherfield

This article proposes a location for properties known in early Rotherfield manorial court records as Bonnetts and Bachelands and documents what is known about them, in particular with regard to ownership over time. Abstracts of the manorial records referring to the properties are included for completeness and date from 1516 to 1854. To the author's knowledge the location of these properties has not been formally identified in the past and is unlikely to be known in present times. The properties are potentially relevant to the early history of the Rotherfield St Denys church due to their proximity to the church; a potential association between Bachelands and a 15th century rector; the unusual structure of the various plots of land which includes a 'way'; speculation in the past of a long lost Priory in the vicinity (Pullein 1928); and previous archaeological work on a wall on the Bachelands property in 2003. A Grade II listed property called Town Hill House is now located on land forming part of Bonnetts. The property is located at latitude 51.046610° North; longitude 0.217795° East.

*Note: This article uses a different method of citing references compared to the rest of the book as it was originally intended to be published elsewhere.*

#### Bonnetts and Bachelands

From 1591 to at least 1854 the Bonnetts and Bachelands properties were owned as a single unit comprising four parcels of land. They are always described in the manorial court books as:

- A messuage & garden of 1 rood [1/4 acre] with a barn called **Bonnetts** and a 'Way' from the messuage to the barn.
- A garden of 1 rood called **Bachelands** next to the barn.
- A parcel of meadow 1/2 acre
- A kitchen (later described as a wooden building, and also a lodge or hovel) once of Alice A'Downe and a garden once of Adam Fermor.

When the property was acquired in 1530 by John Nynde (Nynne alias Barber), it was described in the same form as above except there was no "garden of 1 rood called Bachelands", which seems to have been added to the property sometime before 1591. The property has then remained intact at least until 1854 when it came into the possession of the Earl of Chichester and Viscount Gage.

The manorial records give clues as to its location. It is first described in 1516 as "*at Retherfeild Hill*". It is later described as on "*Kings Highway leading from Town of Rotherfield to Browngate*". Sometimes it is referred to as being on "*Town Hill*" or even "*High St*".

The names “Rotherfield Hill” and “Browngate” are no longer in modern usage. However, there is an entry in the Rotherfield manor court rolls (1593-1607) which clearly associates Rotherfield Hill with the village and the church: “*Comes Anthony Fowle & surrenders a little parcel lying near to churchyard of Retherfeld on Retherfeld Hill called Spansbyes*” (Pullein Transcripts Vol IV, 10). There is only one road within the village which could be called a hill and that is Church Road and this therefore must be what was called “Rotherfield Hill” (Fig. A2-1). Church Road passes in front of the church and leads up to the centre of the village and is now part of the B2100 roadway. Finally, Browngate is clearly identified on the 1597 manorial map of Rotherfield as “Brounsgate” (see Fig. A2-10) and is clearly at the bottom of Church Road (confirming that this is the location of Rotherfield Hill).

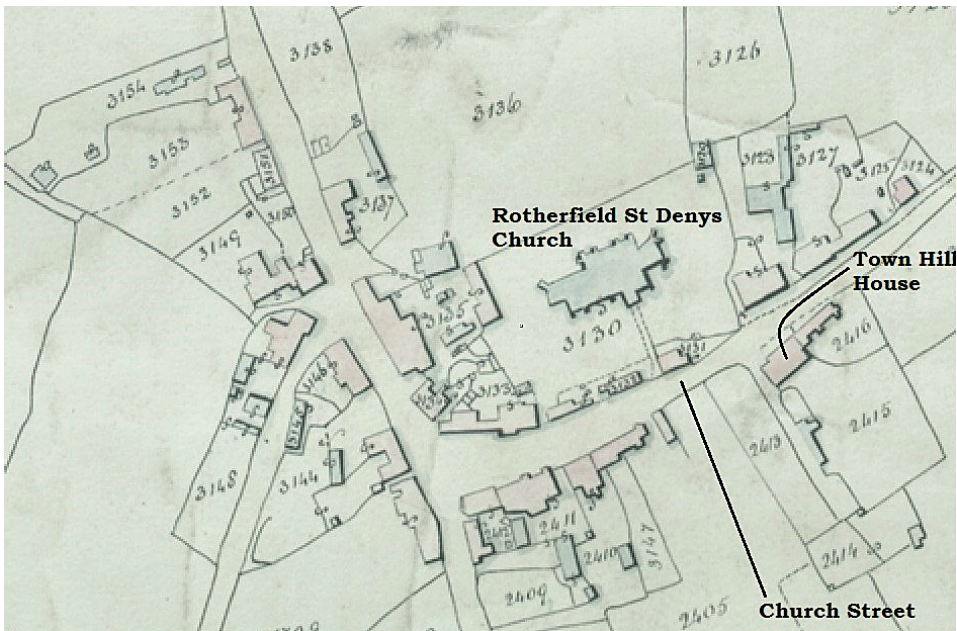
The 1842 tithe map of Rotherfield village (Fig. A2-2) together with the knowledge of the location of Rotherfield Hill and the rather unique description of the four components comprising the property, allows the location to be identified as plots 2413, 2414 and 2415 on the tithe map, with the “Way” in the middle of these plots. This is on Church Road opposite the Rotherfield St Denys church and is at the location of what is now called Town Hill House, a Grade II listed property dating from the 18th century.

The 1842 tithe schedule shows all these plots as being owned by Sir John Villiers Shelley who also owned a number of other properties in the village and



**Fig. A2-1** An early 20th-century postcard looking up Church Road (Rotherfield Hill) with Johnson’s pond on the right. Note the Rotherfield St Denys church steeple.  
*Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*

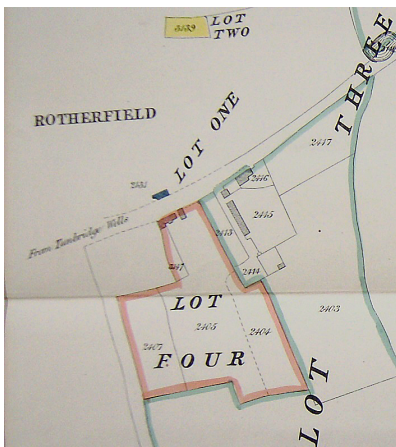




**Fig. A2-2** The 1842 Tithe Map of Rotherfield Village. The Rotherfield St Denys church is clearly shown in plot 3130. The property Bachelands is plot 2413 and Bonnetts comprises plots 2414, 2415 and the Way. *ESRO, TD/E 1560006*

surrounding area. He appears to have sold the property at auction in 1859 and the Particulars and Conditions of Sale document (which included a number of estates in Rotherfield, Buxted and Mayfield) includes a plan of the property (*ESRO, ABE 14/D*). Bonnetts and Bachelands formed part of auction Lot Three and are shown in Fig. A2-3 below. This plan was clearly based on the 1842 tithe map and uses the same plot numbers.

The components of the Bonnetts and Bachelands property are discussed below with reference to the 1842 tithe map:



**Plot 2415** is described on the tithe map as Town Hill House and garden, 1 rood and 34 perches, or 0.46 acres in area. In the manorial court books this is described a “parcel of meadow of 1/2 acre” which probably did not include the house.

**Fig. A2-3** A section of the map from the Francis Fuller & Co estate auction of 1859. Lot Three included Bonnetts and Bachelands and is identified by the plot numbers 2413, 2414 and 2415 – the same numbers used in the 1842 tithe map. *ESRO*



**Plot 2414** is described as a lodge and yard, 37 perches or 0.92 roods in area, and is considered to be the lodge or hovel once of Alice A'Downe and a garden once of Adam Farmer. No structures appear to have survived.

**The Way** is in the middle of the properties lying between plots 2413 and 2415 on the tithe map together with a curiously shaped plot, possibly a garden, both without plot numbers. The manorial court book description appears to combine the house, garden, barn and “way” into one plot, suggesting the boundary lines may have been slightly different in earlier times.

**Plot 2413** is described on the tithe map schedule as a garden, 31 perches or 0.78 roods in area. This is considered to be **Bachelands**, which today has a house on it called The Friars fronting the main street (Church Road). This plot has a surviving stone wall on the road boundary which was the subject of an archaeological investigation report (Martin 2003) which found that some parts of the wall were dated to the 15th and 16th centuries and that the use of an expensive embellishment in the brickwork called Diaper ornamentation (rare in Sussex) indicated the presence of a high status building in the past.

Town Hill House is shown in early 20th-century postcards in Figs. A2-4 and A2-5 and a current view of the overall property from the church steeple is shown in Fig. A2-6.



**Fig. A2-4** An early 20th-century postcard of Town Hill House (called Kings-clere at that time) in Church Road, Rotherfield. Note the high brick wall in front of the plot called Bachelands (now a house called The Friars), with the plot appearing to be vacant land at that time. The entrance to the “Way” between Bachelands and Town Hill House is clearly visible.  
*Private collection of Alan Yates, Rotherfield*



**Fig. A2-5** An early 20th-century postcard looking down Church Road (Rotherfield Hill). Note Town Hill House down the hill on the right and the Rotherfield St Denys church lych gate on the left. *Private collection of Geoffrey Barber*



**Fig. A2-6** The Bonnetts and Bachelands property viewed from the church steeple. Town Hill House (on the left obscured by trees) with barn and meadow. 'The Friars' house is in the centre of the photo and is on the plot known as Bachelands.

*Photo: Alan Yates, Rotherfield 2013*



The location of the original Bonnetts cottage is open to speculation as it appears to have been lost although it is possible that parts have been incorporated into the current Town Hill house. Alternatively, it could have been in that curiously shaped plot in the Way. David Martin's opinion of the existing barn at the back of Town Hill House (based purely on a selection of photographs sent to him, some of which are shown in Figs. A2-7, A2-8 and A2-9) is that it appears to have been built late 17th or early 18th century as a stable and wagon lodge (or possibly even a coach house) with fodder loft above. So the existing barn was possibly built at the same time as Town Hill House.

### **Further Discussion on Bachelands**

Manorial records describe Bachelands as a garden in 1591 indicating that there was no building on it at that time. It remained a garden at least up until 1854 and possibly into the 20th century (see postcard Fig. A2-4). There is speculation of an association between Bachelands and John Bache/Bathe, rector of Rotherfield 1406 to 1430. The brick wall may have an early connection to the church but it is possible that Bachelands formed part of a neighbouring house in the 16th century before it was acquired to become part of the Bonnetts property sometime before 1591. Pulein (1928, 37) mentions 'great hewn stones' found in the garden of Kingsclere (as Town Hill House was called at that time) and states her opinion that they belonged to the Fowle family house (and not a long lost priory) that she



**Fig. A2-7** Photograph of the barn taken in the 'Way' looking towards Church Road. Note the church steeple on the extreme left. *Photo: Alan Yates, Rotherfield 2013*





Fig. A2-8 Detail of the barn – south eastern corner. *Photo: Alan Yates, Rotherfield 2013*



Fig. A2-9 Detail of the barn – eastern side. *Photo: Alan Yates, Rotherfield 2013*

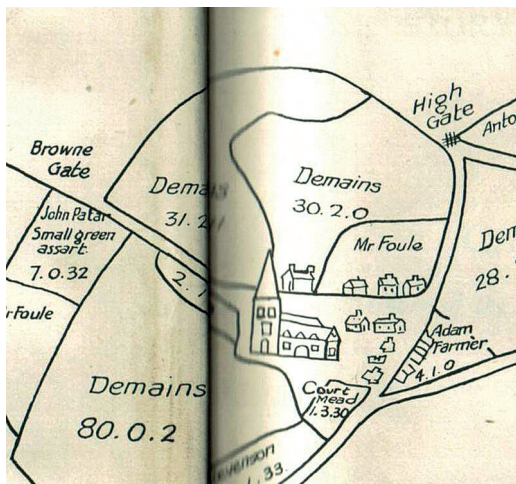


says is ‘clearly shown on the 1597 map as the most prominent house in the street’, although this is based on an incorrect drawing of the 1597 map (see below).

At this point, a slight digression is required to point out discrepancies between the original 1597 survey map and the hand drawn interpretation given as the frontispiece in Pullein’s book. Her book does not state who drew this but it has some major inconsistencies with the original map in the particular area which is the subject of this article. I suspect that Pullein did not draw the map as she seems to rely on it for some of her conclusions (e.g. Pullein 1928, 37) and thus may not have had access to the original. The original map and the hand drawn version are reproduced below (Fig. A2-10. and Fig. A2-11) to highlight the differences which are significant:



**Fig. A2-10** Rotherfield Village on the original 1597 survey of the manor of Rotherfield map.  
ESRO: ACC/0363/111



**Fig. A2-11** Rotherfield Village as drawn in Pullein’s book in 1928 from the 1597 survey of the manor of Rotherfield map. *Pullein 1928*

In the hand drawn version the church has been moved, some houses omitted, and a high status house drawn on demains land opposite the church which was never on the original. In addition, the large block of town site land labelled 'Mr Foule' on the hand drawn map actually says 'Mr Foule and others 8-0-0' on the original. It is a significant misrepresentation that needs to be highlighted given the significance of Pullein's work to researchers of Rotherfield history and the fact that it is the hand drawn version that is described in the archaeological investigation in 2003 (Martin 2003) and also in the biography of Anthony Fowle (Combes 2011). The hand drawn map contains many more errors (many are visible on just the small area shown) demonstrating that the original should always be consulted. Fortunately, computer technology now allows easy access to digitised images of the original, something that was not available to Pullein.

The church is obviously in the wrong position on the original 1597 map. In the author's opinion, this was because it needed to be drawn large to show its importance. However, the rest of the map is the only representation available of the village and should be accepted as such without modification. To state that the Fowles had a house "clearly shown on the 1597 map as the most prominent house in the street" is simply wrong. It is possible (and likely given their wealth) that they had the most prominent house in the street – it just doesn't show up on the map.

So did the high status brickwork in the wall on the Bachelands property belong to the Fowle family residence? Given that the period of Fowle ownership of Bachelands would be sometime before 1591, we would be looking at either the family of Anthony Fowle (the son of William, buried 15 June 1567) or his only son Anthony (the younger) who was born soon after his father's death in 1567. He came of age and was admitted to his inheritance on 16 Jan 1587/88 (Pullein 1928, 383-387) and in the description of properties to which he was admitted there are some on Rotherfield Hill that are of interest:

A messuage with garden adjoining, and an orchard, a parcel of land containing 12 rods in latitude and 21 rods in longitude on Retherfeld hyll, and an old sunk road for carriage and re-carriage in the Queen's Highway of Retherfeld through the gate and close of Stephen Alchorne in the town of Retherfeld

A messuage with garden adjacent on Retherfeld hyll formerly Thomas Farmer's

A parcel on Retherfeld hyll called Spansbyes

A messuage and garden on Retherfeld hyll formerly of Edward Farmer's

The first property described above is possibly the Fowle family home on Rotherfield Hill and may be the high status home connected to the brick wall in

front of Bachelands. This Fowle property almost certainly lies in the town site block labelled 'Mr Foule and others 8-0-0' on the 1597 map. The Fowles were iron masters and quite wealthy so it is feasible that they were responsible for the expensive brickwork (Combes 2011). Also the iron industry attracted many foreign workers to Rotherfield in the 15th and 16th century and they may have been responsible for the unusual Diaper embellishment in the brickwork.

It also is interesting to note the mention of Thomas and Edward Farmer in the above properties as the description of Bonnets refers to a garden once of Adam Fermor (Farmer). This may be Adam Fermor the elder, buried 1547 in Rotherfield. His widow Alice was buried 1551 and they may be the parents of Alice Farmer who married John Nynne in 1554, which could explain how this part of the property came into the Barber alias Nynne family. Also, William Fowle left a will made 6 September 1560 in which a small sum of money was left to Annys A Downe, another surname connected to the Bonnets property.

### Ownership of Bonnetts

The ownership history of Bonnetts (which incorporated Bachelands sometime late 16th century) is as follows:

1450's : Possibly Simon Bonnet (speculation)

Gap in records

- 1516 : Alice A'Downe, widow

1516 - 1530 : Thomas Morley and wife Rose

1530 - 1548 : John Nynne alias Barber (buried 1548, sexton at Rotherfield St Denys) and wife Joan (buried 1577)

1548 - 1591 : Their son John Nynne alias Barber (buried 1591) and wife Alis (nee Farmer/Fermor) (buried 1595)

1591 - 1627 : Their son George Barber alias Nynne (churchwarden, name on churchbell 1603, buried 1627) and wife Elizabeth (buried 1638)

1627 -c1675: Their son Thomas Nynne alias Barber and wife Ann (née Latter later Ann Theobald of Tonbridge, Kent). Thomas was buried 1649 and Ann probably died c1675.

c1675 - 1677: Their son Thomas Barber alias Nynne of Tonbridge, Kent and wife Mary (née Rootes)

1677 - 1706 : Edmund Latter and wife Mary (nee Lashmore/Lashmar)

1706 - 1747 : Humphrey Fowle. Purchased for £125.

1747 - : John Latter of Tonbridge, Kent. Purchased for £140.

Gap in records

- 1842 : Sir John Villiers Shelley is the owner on 1842 tithe map

1842 - 1854 : Sir John Villiers Shelley

1854 - 1859 : Earl of Chichester and Viscount Gage

1859 - : (presumably sold at auction in 1859 – further research may identify later owners)

### **History of Property Transactions for Bonnetts**

Various transactions relating to this property have been discovered (mostly manorial surrenders and admissions) and are listed below:

**On 27 Sep 1516** Thomas Morely is admitted to the property (Latin):

27 Sep 1516 Copy Surrender of Alice A Downe, widow, to use of Tho Morley. Small parcel land (?belonging to) a Cottage called Bonetts on Retherfield Hill. (ESRO, SAS AB 395)

**On 11 May 1530** John Nynde is admitted to the property (Latin):

11 May 1530, Copy Surrender of Tho. Morley & Rose his wife to use of Joh ?Synde & Joan his wife. Cottage with ?Kitchen (coquina), & garden, in Retherfield also small parcel land of 1/2 acre, & garden belonging, late Alice Downe's. (ESRO, SAS AB 396)

**On 23 Sep 1591** George Nynne is admitted to the property

Comes George Nynne & prays 1 messuage with garden on R. hyll containing 1 rod & 1 barn formerly called Bennetts with a road to the said messuage & barn & a garden containing 1 rod called Bacheland near the said barn & a parcel of meadow cont. 1/2 ac. & 1 kitchen formerly Alice Adowne's & 1 garden formerly Adam Farmer's of which John N. his father died siesed. (Pullein Transcripts Vol III pg 58)

It appears that Bachelands may have been acquired between 1530 and 1591, as it is not specifically mentioned in the 1530 admission but is mentioned in the 1591 admission.

**On 11 Oct 1627** Thomas Nynne als Barber is admitted to the property on the death of his father George (Latin):

11 Oct 1627 Messuage & garden at Retherfeild Hill [*sic*], of 1 rod, and a barn called Bonnetts, with a Way from said messuage to the barn; Also a garden of 1 rod called Bacheland next to said barn; Also a parcel meadow of 1/2 ac, & a Kitchen (coquinam) once of Alice Adowne, & a garden once of Adam Farmer. (ESRO, SAS AB 398)

**On 7 Jan 1661/62** Thomas Barber alias Nynne leases the property from his mother:

7 Jan 1661/62 Lease by Samuel Theobold of Tonbridge, Kent, clothier and Ann his wife, to Thomas Barber alias Nine, of Frant, Sussex, then servant to Thomas Weller, gent., of a messuage or tenement, outhouse, barn and stall



and a small piece of land lying near the said barn, together with all gardens, closes, backside, etc. in Rotherfield Town. Also, 4 pieces of land and wood containing 22 acres, called Draperys in Rotherfield; all which premises the said Samuel held by right of An his wife made to her by jointure and lease from Thomas Barber alias Nine, her former husband, father of the above named Thomas. Term, the life of the said Ann Theobold party to the deed and mother of the said Thomas: rent yearly £11/5s. Signature of Samuel Theobold, and mark of Ann Theobold & seals. Witnesses: William Jeffrey, Ann Barber (mark). (ESRO, SAS FA 781)

**On 6 Dec 1677** Thomas Nynne alias Barber surrenders the property and Edmund Latter is admitted:

6 Dec 1677 To this Court came Thomas Nynne alias Barbour and surrendered into the hands of the Lords, by the acceptance of their aforesaid steward, one messuage or tenement, one garden and one barn, called Bonnetts, and a certain way leading from the messuage to the aforesaid barn, and also one other garden containing one rood of land called Bathelands lying near the aforesaid barn, and one piece of meadow containing half an acre, and one wooden building, in English a lodge or hovel, and one garden previously Adam Fermor's, situated and lying in Retherfeild, held by rent of [blank], heriot, relief and other services, to the use of Edmund Latter and his heirs, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor. And thereupon to this court came the aforesaid Edmund and sought that he be admitted to the messuage, tenement, barn, garden, lands and premises aforesaid, with the appurtenances, to whom the lords, through their aforesaid steward, granted seisin thereof by rod, to have and to hold to the same Edmund and his heirs, at the will of the lords, according to the custom of the aforesaid manor, by the rent and services formerly due in respect thereof and by right accustomed. And he gave to the lords, as fine and heriot, a composition, £3 13s 4d. And he is admitted as tenant thereof. And he has seisin by rod. And he makes fealty to the lords. (ESRO, ABE 7401)

**On 24 Oct 1678** Edmund Latter surrenders the property as settlement on his intended wife Mary Lashmore:

Copy Surrender of Edmund Latter to Use of said Edmund for Life, & then to Mary Lashmore his intended wife, then to their issue; & his Admission thereon. Messuage in which said Edmund [Latter] dwells, with garden, on Retherfeild Hill, of 1 rood, & barn called Bonnetts with Way leading from said messuage to said barn; Also garden of 1 rood called Bachelands next said barn, and piece meadow of 1/2 ac, also Lodge or Hovell (tigellum) and garden formerly of Adam Fermor, in Retherfeild. (A rough endorsement states "Latters Settlement on His Wife. This is copphold [copyhold?] from a thorn left in the fence of the Lawrel Hedg the other side of said Lawrel hedg westward is freehold"). (ESRO, SAS AB 405)

This transactions illustrates one means of ensuring that a property belonging to a male could be used for the benefit of his wife after his death but still go to his heirs in the event that his wife remarried (otherwise a woman's property became her husband's property on marriage). Jointure is the term used to describe a provision made by a husband for his wife by settling property upon her at marriage for her use after his death.

**On 5 Oct 1706** Mary Latter, widow, & relict of Edmund L., cordwinder [*sic*] and Humphrey Latter of Groombridge, Kent, mercer, only son & heir of said Edmund, sign a covenant (a contract of sale) for £125 to surrender the property at the next Court Baron of the manor of Rotherfield to Humphrey Fowle of Rotherfield, esq.

A Messuage with garden upon Rotherfield Hill, of 1 rood; Also barn called Bonnetts with a Way from the Messuage aforesaid to said barn; Also garden of 1 rood called Bachelands near said barn; & parcel meadow of 1/2 ac; Also Lodge or Hovell heretofore a Kitchen & now one garden heretofore belonging to Adam Fermor; All held of Manor of Rotherfield & now in occupation of Jas Mugridge & late the lands & tenmts of said Edmund Latter, deed, & by him surrendered on 4 Oct 1678 to Use of said Edmund for Life & Remainder to said Mary by name of Mary Lashmore his then intended wife for her Life. (ESRO, SAS AB 408)

Note that Humphrey Fowle is the great grandson of Anthony Fowle (the younger) mentioned earlier in this paper, and the last of the Fowle line in Rotherfield (died 1756).

**On 19 Sep 1747** John Latter of Tunbridge, Kent cordwainer, paid Humphrey Fowle £140 for the property and a more detailed description is given:

Messuage or tenement with barn, buildings, closes, gardens, orchards, etc, in Rotherfield, bounding to High St on S [South], to messuage and garden of said Humphry F. on W, & to messuage and lands of said Humphry F. now in occupation of Jas Mugridge the elder on N & E, all of 1 acre, in occupations of Hen Latter & Edw Taylor. (ESRO, SAS AB 410)

**On 23 Dec 1854** the property was surrendered by Spencer Shelley on the death of Sir John Shelley, and the Earl of Chichester and Viscount Gage were admitted as the new owners. The property was described as:

Mes [messuage] with gdn [garden] on Rotherfield Hill, of 1 rood; Also Bn [barn] called Bennetts [*sic*] with a Way leading from sd mes to sd bn [said messuage to said barn]; Also a gdn of 1 rood called Backland [*sic*] nr sd bn, & 1 piece of meadow of 1/2 ac, & a Lodge or Hovel, afterwards a gdn, once Farmers since Latters. (ESRO, SAS AB 1461)

**On 20 Mar 1860** the property was enfranchised (converted to freehold). (ESRO, SAS AB 1463).

### **Notes Concerning Some of the People Mentioned:**

**Bonnett** – the court rolls for the manor of Rotherfield in 1456 has the entry:

The homag present that the tenement of Simon Bonnet viz the plastered hall & grange, are ruiness. Therefore he has a day before Easter next under pain of 13/4 [13s/4d] 34HVI [1456].

It gives some description of the house, if indeed this was ‘Bonnetts’. Note that a grange, in this context, probably means a barn or granary, as this is the old meaning of the word. Two years earlier, in 1454, Simon Bonnet had been mentioned for the same problem:

The Homag present that the buildings of John Astyn are in decay in everything. And the house of Simon Bonnet. And the houses of John at Fryth, John Hunt & Thos A’Downe.

At least this is evidence of a family called Bonnet in Rotherfield in the 15th century, although we cannot be certain about the house.

**Alice A’Downe** – no connection identified to the Barber alias Nynne family. Although the surname A’Downe appears in the Barber alias Nynne family tree in Rotherfield, it is via the Latter family who married into the family much later in 1639.

**Thomas Morley** – at present no connection to the Barber alias Nynne family has been proven. However, in addition to the Bonnetts property, he transferred (sold?) the freehold property called Drapers to them in the 1500s. While there is no record of transfer, he did own Drapers in 1509 as evidenced in a quit rental and by c1580 it is in the hands of the Nynne alias Barber family. The two transfers lead one to suspect a family connection (did one of his children marry a Nynne?) but there is no proof.

**Adam Farmer/Fermor** – suspected of being a family relative of the Nynne alias Barber family, as “*John Nen married Alis Farmer*” on 8 April 1554 in Rotherfield. John Nynne’s will (probate 25 May 1591) named Adam Farmer, son of John Farmer, as one of the overseers. Both John and Adam are mentioned in the manorial court records as having served as headman (or headborough) for the Southborough area of Rotherfield parish.

**Samuel Theobald** – third husband of Ann (née Latter, who married first husband William Heath 1630 and second husband Thomas Nynne alias Barber in 1639). Ann Latter is the daughter of Edmund Latter and Agnes Alchorne (née A'Downe), baptised 11 December 1608 at Rotherfield. She may have grown up on a property called Salters at Packham's Hill in Rotherfield as Edmund Latter acquired Salters in 1595 and it was held in the family until 1685 (Pullein p303).

**Edmund Latter** – likely the grandson of Edmund Latter and Agnes Alchorne (née A'Downe) – and the son of John Latter bap. 15 January 1636/37. He is mentioned in Edmund Latter's will of 1654 in Tonbridge.

**Humphrey Fowle** – notes from Bill Green (a Fowle family researcher): In the autumn of 1747 Humphrey Fowle was approaching 65 years of age and was apparently selling at least some of his many holdings (sold messuage etc in Balcombe in November). When he died in 1756 he had no male heir so he left everything to a Thomas Peckham with whom he lived. Mr. Peckham was to take the Fowle name to preserve the Fowle line. Peckham died without issue and that was the end of the Rotherfield junior Fowle line. See also Pullein, and Combe - there is a lot of history on the Fowle family.

## **Conclusion**

The Bonnets and Bachelands properties have been shown to be located in Church Road in Rotherfield village with the individual components identified on the 1842 tithe map. A history of ownership up to 1854 has been determined and abstracts of manorial records relating to the properties have been collected and presented in this paper. The genealogy of the Barber alias Nynne and the Latter families, owners of the property over two centuries, provides some human background to this story.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance given by local historian and Rotherfield St Denys archivist Alan Yates in providing local maps, photographs, and access to records of the Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) and Catherine Pullein's personal papers. Photographs of Town Hill House have been used with permission of the photographer Alan Yates and the owner Mrs P. Rice.

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- ESRO, ABE 14/D.** East Sussex Record Office, ABE 14/D, Particulars and Conditions of Sale: Estate Auction of Properties at Rotherfield, Buxted and Mayfield by Francis Fuller & Co, 15 Dec 1859
- ESRO, ACC 363/111.** East Sussex Record Office, ACC 363/111, A Description [map] of the Manor of Rotherfield, 1597. “*Described in the Year 1597 by Richard Allin of Roberstsbridge in Sussex, And new drawn on vellum and collored in the yeare 1664 by John Pattenden of Brenchley in Kent*”. Scale illegible but about 4 miles to the inch.
- ESRO, SAS AB.** East Sussex Record Office, Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) AB Files.
- ESRO, SAS FA.** East Sussex Record Office, Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) FA Files.
- ESRO, TD/E 1560006.** East Sussex Record Office, TD/E 1560006, Tithe map, Rotherfield, 1842.
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- Pullein, C.** Personal Notebook, handwritten. Sussex Archaeological Society, Barbican Library, Lewes.

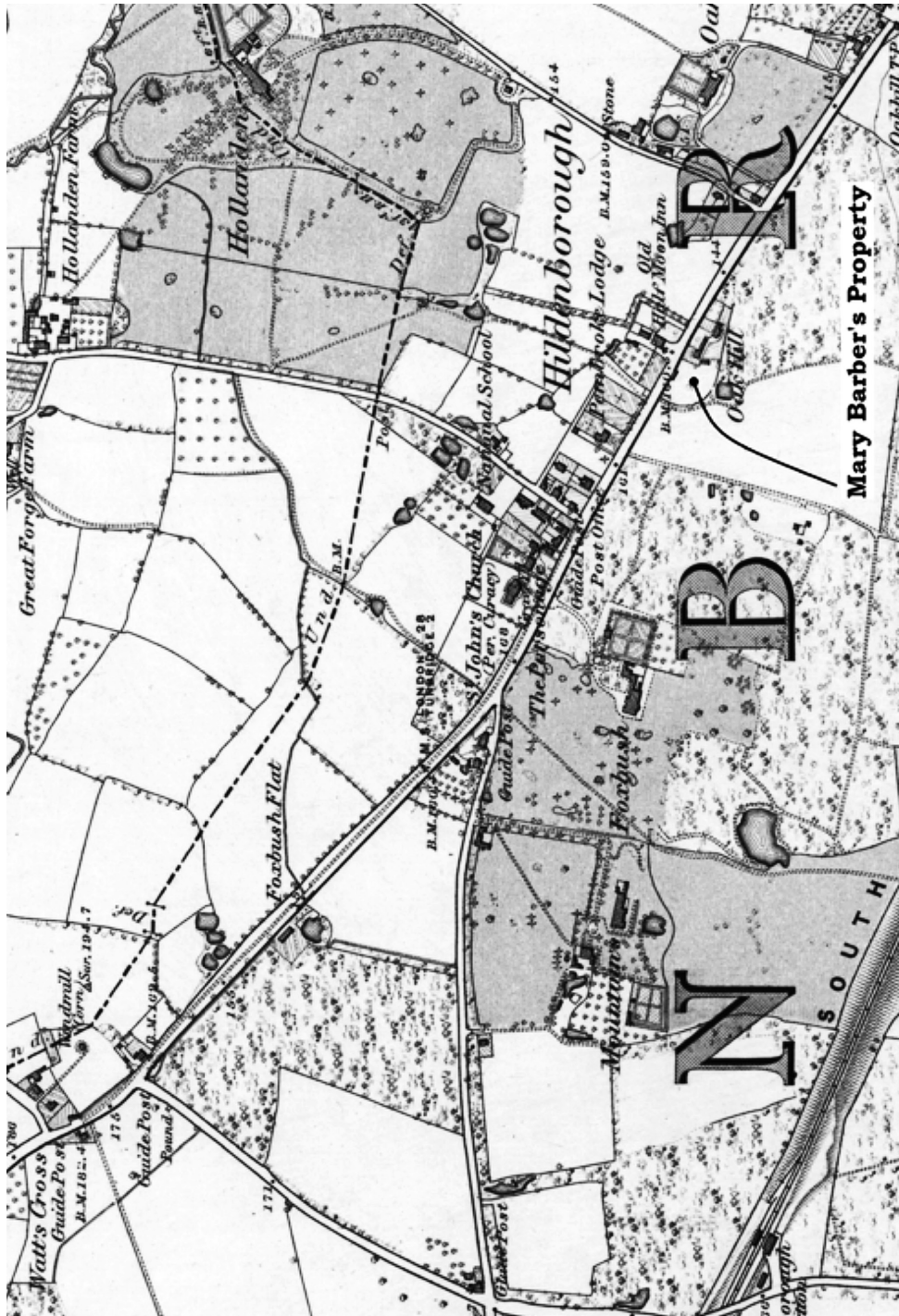


Fig. A3-1 Widow Mary Barber purchased the property across the road from the "Old Half Moon Inn" in 1691, shown here on the 1866-1869 Ordnance Survey Six Inches to One Mile (1:10560) map. *Crown Copyright: OS Kent Sheet L, 1:10560, Published 1871*

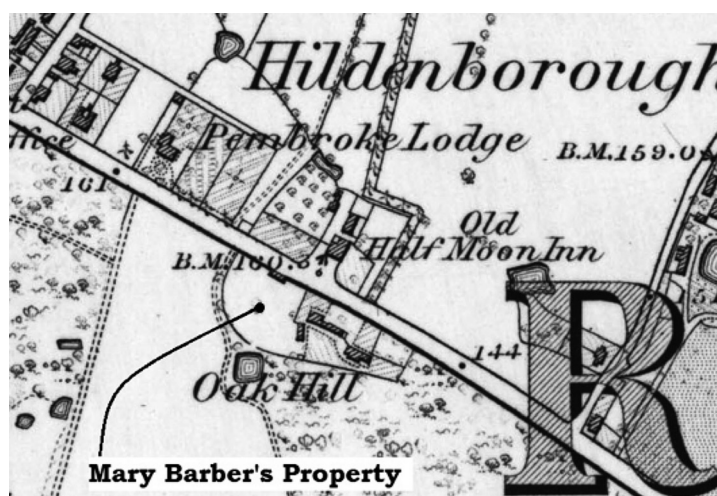
## APPENDIX III

### The Widow Mary Barber's House in Hildenborough

The following timeline documents the information known about the Widow Mary Barber's property in Hildenborough.

Much of the information comes from the U55 collection at the Kent History and Library Centre of which the court rolls of the manor of Datchurst 1718-1884 (U55 M378) is one item. This collection came from Hubert. W. Knocker, solicitor and at one time steward of the manor of Datchurst (c1880), and includes a number of different manorial records, deeds etc. He looks to have been involved with a number of manors and kept the court records in his own possession which is fortunate, as with numerous changes of ownership (of the manors) and the vicissitudes of time, these records have often gone missing. (*G. Rickard*)

Mary Barber purchased this property in 1691 and its location was only determined by following the ownership changes in the Datchurst manorial court books through to the late 19th century. Identifying the owner at that time allowed that person to be located on the schedule attached to the 1838 Tonbridge tithe map, which gives the unique plot number (652) for the property and allows it to be located on the tithe map. The location of the property is shown in Figs. A3-1 and A3-2 using the Ordinance Survey maps published in 1871 as they show more information than the tithe maps. The property is on the Tonbridge to Sevenoaks road, directly opposite the Half Moon Inn, and comprises the buildings as well as the paddocks – just over one acre in area.



**Fig. A3-2**  
A magnified view  
Mary Barber's  
property in  
Hildenborough,  
approximately one  
acre in area.  
*Crown Copyright: OS  
Kent Sheet L, 1:10560,  
Published 1871*



The house survives at 99 Tonbridge Road, Hildenborough and is a Grade II listed building now known as Woodside Cottage.<sup>338</sup> There is a photograph of the house taken in 1957 in the English Heritage “England’s Places” photographic collection (Fig. A3-3) showing the house in a very overgrown and neglected state.<sup>339</sup> The photograph in Fig. A3-4 would appear to have been taken soon after when a certain amount of the overgrowth had been removed. The house has since been restored and updated (Fig. A3-5). It can be located at coordinates latitude 51.215118 North; longitude 0.243968 East.



**Fig. A3-3** Mary Barber’s house in 1957 – overgrown and neglected but still lived in judging by the well-worn path. *Reproduced by permission of English Heritage*



**Fig. A3-4** Mary Barber’s house sometime after 1957 having had a clean-up.  
*Photo courtesy of the current owners, Christian Santo and Zara Richardson*

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338 Webpage *English Heritage* <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1070433>

339 Webpage *English Heritage* <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/archives-and-collections/EnglandsPlacesLanding/EnglandsPlacesItem/>, (Hildenborough, image no. 2445\_117).





Fig. A3-5 Mary Barber's house in 2013 showing that there have been a number of alterations.

### History Timeline for the Widow Mary Barber's Property, Hildenborough

- 21 Oct 1691      Widow Barber takes (copyhold) possession of a cottage from the manor of Datchurst. It is described as *"One tenement or cottage, one barn and one orchard, and two roods of land by estimation, with the appurtenances, lying on the highway leading between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks towards the east and north, and the lands late of Francis Skeffington esquire towards the south"*.<sup>340</sup> (see full transcription below)
- Mar-Jun 1692      Three receipts for work done by William Dudson specifically mention Widow Barber and the "old house". The receipt mentions the building of a four-flue chimney.<sup>341</sup> (see transcription below)
- 14 Apr 1692      First occurrence of Widow Barber in the Overseers of the Poor rating assessments of property owners. The property was rated at 1s/6d indicating a rental value of the property of £1/10s (rated at 1s/- in the £).<sup>342</sup>

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340 Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

341 Kay Cope and Joan Dash, *This is Hildenborough from A-Z*, Hildenborough Parish Council, Revised 2007, p. 35.

342 Overseers of the Poor Rating Assessments of the parish of Tonbridge, Kent, England (KHL: P371/12/1-4).

- 16 Apr 1695     The property was rated at 1s/6d in the Overseers of the Poor rating assessment (rated at 1s/6d in the £), indicating a lower rental of £1. In addition there was “*and for Mr Danver’s 2s/3d*” indicating that she had leased other lands.
- 7 Nov 1695     The property was rated at 1s/- in the Overseers of the Poor rating assessment (rated at 1s/- in the £), indicating a rental value of £1. Widow Barber is also rated for “*Mr. Danver’s & Mr. Richardson’s, 1s/6d*”.
- 9 June 1698     The property was rated at 2s/- in the Overseers of the Poor rating assessment (rated at 2s/- in the £), indicating a rental value of £1. Mr Danvers and Mr Richardson are rated for “*land late used by Widowe Barber*”, so she is no longer using this.
- 4 Oct 1712     A quit rent receipt for 6d paid by Mary Barber states “*for lands near the Half Moon*”.<sup>343</sup>
- 13 Oct 1730     Two years before she dies, Widow Mary Barber transfers the property to her eldest surviving son, Thomas Barber, a malster of Tonbridge.<sup>344, 345</sup> (see transcription below)
- 12 Oct 1749     The property passes to Thomas Barber’s nephew, also a Thomas Barber, via his will. Both are maltsters of Tonbridge. It is not known if the nephew Thomas and his future wife Elizabeth (daughter of John Waite) actually lived in the house. Given his occupation as a malster it is more likely that they lived in the house in Tonbridge Town that Thomas also inherited from his uncle.<sup>346, 347</sup> (see transcription below)
- 4 Feb 1755     Thomas Barber dies intestate and administration is granted to his widow, Elizabeth Barber (daughter of John Waite). Her only child Thomas is just two years old.<sup>348</sup>

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343 Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

344 Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).

345 Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

346 Will of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, 16 May 1749, pr. 16 Jun 1749 (The National Archives: PROB 11/770/346).

347 Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).

348 Letters of administration of the estate of Thomas Barber of Tonbridge, Kent, England, granted by the Archdeaconry Court of Rochester, 4 Feb 1755 (Tonbridge Library, TU1/T73, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

APPENDIX III

- 19 Oct 1758     The Datchurst manorial court proclaims that the infant Thomas Barber is heir to the property held by his father who died in 1755.<sup>349</sup> (see transcription below)
- 23 Oct 1764     The “infant” Thomas Barber (i.e. under the age of 21 years) is admitted to the property under the guardianship of his mother Elizabeth until he is 21 years of age.<sup>350</sup> (see transcription below)
- 29 Jan 1776     Elizabeth Barber releases her dower to her 23 year old son Thomas Barber. The Hildenborough property is mentioned as part of this indenture. We find in a later document that this was in exchange for an income to Elizabeth of £20 p.a. William Waite, yeoman of Tonbridge, appears to be a trustee for Elizabeth and is most likely her eldest brother.<sup>351</sup>
- The house is described as a “*messuage ... now divided into two several habitations ... with the yards, backsides, gardens and orchards thereunto respectively apportioned and ... containing by estimation one acre of ground more or less, with appurtenances, situated, lying and being in Hildenborough in Tonbridge aforesaid and now in the tenure or occupation of Widow Kemp and John Wells*”.
- 10 Oct 1788     The property and others are mortgaged to George Children to raise £500. Thomas Barber is said to be a malster of Ightham.<sup>352</sup> (see Appendix IV)
- 12 Oct 1801     The property is sold to George Children for £150 under a Lease and Release conveyance. Thomas Barber is described as a yeoman.<sup>353</sup> (see Appendix V)
- 26 Dec 1801     The mortgage arranged in 1788 is discharged using proceeds from the sale of some of the properties held under the mortgage, including the Hildenborough property and another called Finches.<sup>354</sup> (see Appendix VI)

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349 Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHLC: U55 M378).

350 Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHLC: U55 M378).

351 Indenture, Release of Dower, Elizabeth Barber to Mr. Thomas Barber, 29 January 1776 (KHLC: U1109 T17, Woodgate Family Papers).

352 Indenture, Mortgage of Finches, Tonbridge Town Site Land and Hildenborough to George Children (KHLC: U624/T20, Somerhill Estate Papers).

353 Indenture, Sale by Lease and Release of the Hildenborough property to George Children, 12 Oct 1801 (Lease) and 13 Oct 1801 (Release), (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1).

354 Indenture, Mortgage of Finches, Tonbridge Town Site Land and Hildenborough to George Children (KHLC: U624/T20, Somerhill Estate Papers).

- 12 Nov 1813    The transfer of ownership from Thomas Barber to George Children in 1801 is recorded in the Datchurst manorial court rolls. The property is described as a messuage or tenement, garden and two orchards.<sup>355</sup> (see transcription below)
- c1840            The entry in the Datchurst court roll dated 2 September 1862 shows the next owner after George Children to be Thomas Peckham. The 1838 Tonbridge tithe map shows him occupying plot 652 in Hildenborough, comprising a house, shop, garden, yard, etc of 1 acre, 1 rod and 8 perches, and with a vicarial tithe (paid to the resident vicar) of 3s/-. The map shows this to be almost exactly across the road from the Half Moon public house. This is therefore the location of Widow Mary Barber's house. (See map Fig. A3-1)
- 1841 Census    Occupying the property are brothers Edward and Thomas Peckham, both aged 60 years, with Edward Peckham aged 30 years, wife Sophia aged 35 years and children. Thomas and both Edwards are wheelwrights.<sup>356</sup>
- 1851 Census    Edward Peckham, wheelwright, and wife Sophia and family occupy the property with Edward Peckham, widower, aged 70 years, and Thomas his uncle, aged 72 years. Thomas was later buried at Leigh on 19 May 1851 (*"age 72 years"*).<sup>357</sup>
- 1861 Census    Edward Peckham, wheelwright, and wife Sophia and family occupy the property. It appears that the older Edward Peckham has died.<sup>358</sup>
- 2 Sep 1862    The Datchurst manorial court rolls record the admission of Edward Peckham, carpenter, to the property on the death of Thomas Peckham, the previous owner. The property was also enfranchised at this time, no longer beholden to the manor (i.e. now freehold). The property is described as:<sup>359</sup>  
*"Copyhold messuage or tenement garden and two orchards lying to the highway leading from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks towards the East and to land at one time of Wickenden formerly Whittakers afterwards Eldridges then of Thomas Barton [Barber] afterwards of George Children then of his assignees and since*

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355 Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHLc: U55 M378).

356 1841 Census for England, "HO107 Piece 463 Folio 60 Page 11."

357 1851 Census for England, "HO107 Piece 1615 Folio 176 Page 1."

358 1861 Census for England, "RG9 Piece 494 Folio 161 Page 19."

359 Court Book, manors of Datchurst, Lamport, Martin Abbey and Nizells, 1718-1884 (KHLc: U55 M378).



*of Thomas Peckham deceased*". (see full transcription below)

12 Jan 1863 According to a family tree in [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk), Edward Peckham, wife Sophia and the three youngest children emigrated in 1863 on board the ship Pharamond, arriving Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, to join their older children who had emigrated a year earlier. Edward died on 12 September 1866 aged 56 years of wounds inflicted by a leopard attack.<sup>360</sup>

## Supporting documents

### Purchase of Cottage, Barn and Orchard (about one acre) in Hildenborough by Mary Barber, 1691.<sup>361</sup>

On 21st October 1691 the widow Mary Barber became the owner of a small cottage in Hildenborough. Remarkably, the title still survives; that is, a copy of the entry in the Datchurst manorial court rolls which records her admission to the property. It is transcribed (from the Latin) below:

Datchurst

Court Baron held in the same place on Wednesday, the twenty first day of October in the one thousand six hundred and ninety first year of our Lord, by Thomas Weller, under steward in the same place.

To this Court came George Petley, gent, and George Hooper junior, gent, two of the customary tenants of this manor, and surrendered into the lord's hands, by the acceptance of the aforesaid steward,

One tenement or cottage, one barn and one orchard, and two roods of land by estimation, with the appurtenances, lying on the highway leading between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks towards the east and north, and the lands late of Francis Skeffington esquire towards the south, held by copy of the rolls of court, to the use and behoof of Mary Barber, widow, and her heirs.

And hereupon the aforesaid Mary comes, in her own person, and seeks to be admitted to the aforesaid tenements,

To which Mary, indeed, the lord of the aforesaid manor, through his aforesaid under-steward, granted seisin thereof by rod,

To have and to hold to the aforesaid Mary and her heirs, at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor, by copy of the rolls of court, by the rent and services formerly due and of right accustomed in respect thereof.

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<sup>360</sup> Webpage: *Ancestry.co.uk* (<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/50554260/family?fpid=13213682822>) Accessed 20 July 2014.

<sup>361</sup> Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

And she gives to the lord, as a fine, according to the custom etc.

Fine for the same 6d

Thomas Weller, Steward

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, April 2014*

**Receipt for work done by William Dudson to Widow Barber's house,  
1692.<sup>362</sup>**

This receipt was documented in a Hildenborough local history book (Cope and Dash, 2007) and also on the Hildenborough parish council website. The original receipt has not been found despite a number of searches at the Tonbridge Library and the Kent History and Library Centre. The receipt is said to read:

March 19th 1692: Day work dun for the widow barber in Hildenborrow for  
whighting the old house William Dudson 2 dayes

Will Dudson 2 dayes

£ 0 - 4 - 0

£ 0 - 2 - 8

March 24th: Day for making the great oven and hanging the furnace and  
building the flew

William Dudson 4 dayes

Will Dudson 4 dayes

£ 0 - 8 - 0

£ 0 - 5 - 4

June 27th: Day for plaisering and whighting the walls of the old house and  
beame filling and meaning the wall of the barn

William Dudson 2 dayes and 3 quarters

Will Dudson 2 dayes and 3 quarters

For building a stack of chimneys of 4 fiores [fires/flues?]

£ 0 - 5 - 6

£ 0 - 3 - 8

£ 2 - 10 - 0

**Transfer of Mary Barber's House to Son Thomas Barber, 1730.<sup>363, 364</sup>**

On 13 October 1730, two years before her death, Mary Barber transferred her house in Hildenborough to her surviving son Thomas (Richard had died in 1722) and this is documented in the court rolls for the manors of Datchurst, Lamport, Martin Abbey and Nizells, 1718-1884:

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<sup>362</sup> Kay Cope and Joan Dash, *This is Hildenborough from A-Z*, Hildenborough Parish Council, Revised 2007, p. 35.

<sup>363</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHLC: U55 M378).

<sup>364</sup> Various Papers from the Manor of Datchurst alias Hilden 1608-1808 (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1, collection of the solicitors Messrs. Walker, Templer and Thomson of Tonbridge).

Manor of Datchurst  
Lamport Martin  
Abbie and Nisell

At the Court Baron of our Lord King George the Second, Lord of the aforesaid Manor, held in the same place on the twelfth day of October in the fourth year of the reign of our Lord the said King, and in the year of our Lord 1730,

Before Thomas Freebody, gentleman, Deputy Steward of Matthew Hickeringill, esquire, Steward in the same place by the patent of the Honourable John, Earl of Leicester, Chief Steward in the same place,

It is enrolled thus;

Item to this Court came Mary Barber, a customary tenant of this manor of Datchurst, and in full court surrendered by rod, into the hands of the lord of the aforesaid manor, by the acceptance of his aforesaid under-steward,

One messuage or tenement, one barn, one garden and two orchards, with the appurtenances, lying on the highway leading from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks towards the east, and with the lands late of Francis Skeffington esquire towards the south, held by an annual rent of six pence and other services,

To the use and behoof of Thomas Barber, his heirs and assigns for ever.

Which Thomas Barber, indeed, is present here in Court in his own person, and seeks to be admitted to the aforesaid premises, with the appurtenances, To whom the lord of the aforesaid manor, through his aforesaid under-steward, granted seisin thereof by rod,

To have to you [in error for “him”], the aforementioned Thomas Barber, his heirs and assigns for ever,

To hold of the lord, by rod, at the will of the lord, according to the custom of that manor, by the rent and services formerly due and of right accustomed in respect thereof.

And he gives to the lord, as a fine, etc.

And he is admitted as tenant thereof.

And he makes fealty to the lord etc.

By Thomas Freebody

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, April 2014*

### **Transfer of Mary Barber’s House to her Grandson, Thomas Barber, 1749** <sup>365</sup>

At the Datchurst manorial court held on 12 October 1749 Thomas Barber was admitted to the Hildenborough property previously owned by his uncle and before that his grandmother, the widow Mary Barber:

The Homag aforesaid upon their oaths present that Thomas Barber a customary tenant of the Manor of Datchurst dyed [died] seized [possessed] of a customary messuage, garden and two orchards lying by the King’s

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<sup>365</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHLc: U55 M378).

highway to the east and lands by then held of [blank] Wickenden and [blank] Whitaker to the south, held by the said manor by copy of court roll by will of the lord according to the customs of the said manor and the yearly rent of six pence. And that he Devised the same to Thomas Barber.

*Transcribed by G. Barber, 2014*

**Proclamation of Great Grandson, Thomas Barber, as Heir to Mary Barber's House, 1758.**<sup>366</sup>

On 19 October 1758 the Datchurst manorial court proclaimed that the infant Thomas Barber was heir to the property held by his father who died in 1755. The delay of a number of years between one tenant dying and his successor being admitted to the property was not uncommon and probably due to the courts not being held every year.

they present that Thomas Barber nephew of Thomas Barber since the last court dyed [died] seized of a customary messuage or tenement and a garden and two orchards lying by the highway leading from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks towards the east and to the lands of [blank] Wickenden and [blank] Whitaker to the south which he held of the said Manor by copy of court roll by will of the lord according to the customs of the said manor and the yearly rent of six pence and that Thomas Barber his son is heir. First proclamation made for Thomas Barber son of Thomas Barber to take up his copyhold estate.

*Transcribed by G. Barber, 2014*

**Transfer of Mary Barber's House to her Great Grandson, Thomas Barber, under Guardianship by Elizabeth, 1764**<sup>367</sup>

On 23 October 1764 the "infant" Thomas Barber (i.e. under the age of 21 years) was admitted to the property under the guardianship of his mother Elizabeth until he is 21 years of age. It is interesting to note that the court was held at the Half Moon Inn across the road from the Barber's property.

Manors of Datchurst Lamport Martin Abbey and Nizel  
The Court Baron of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and Lord of the said Manor held at the house of John Galt and called or known by the name or sign of the Half Moon on the twenty third day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty four Before Francis Austen Gentleman Deputy Steward to his Grace the Duke of Dorset High Steward there  
Essoins: None  
Homage: John Children, Thomas Webb, Joseph Maynard. Sworn

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<sup>366</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).

<sup>367</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).



First the said Homage being sworn and charged upon their oath do present and say that Thomas Barber Infant Son and Heir of Thomas Barber deceased came into court and by Elizabeth his Mother and Guardian prayed to be admitted to all that customary messuage Tenement Guardian and two orchards lying to the Highway leading from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks towards the East and to the lands of [blank] Wickenden and later Mr Whittaker but now Eldridge to the South late his Fathers the said Thomas Barber deceased which he held by copy of court roll and yearly rent of sixpence To whom the Lord by his said Deputy Steward granted and delivered seizin thereof by the rod To have and to hold the said customary messuage or tenement garden and two orchards with the appurtenances unto the said Thomas Barber is Heirs and Assignes for ever by copy of court roll at the will of the Lord according to the custom of the said manor by the rents and services therefore due accustomed And he gave to the Lord for a fine for such his estate sixpence and fealty is respited [postponed] until the said Thomas Barber shall attain his age of twenty one years And afterwards sitting the same court the custody of the body of the said Thomas Barber the Infant as also the rents and profits of the said messuage and premises were granted and committed unto the said Elizabeth barber until the said Thomas Barber the Infant should attain his age of twenty one years She rendering to this court a just amount of the said guardianship when thereto required.

*Transcribed by G. Barber, 2014*

### **Transfer of Mary Barber's House to George Children, 1813 (Sold 1801) <sup>368</sup>**

The Hildenborough property was sold in 1801 but the entry in the Datchurst manorial court roll was not made until 1813. It would appear they were fined 10 shillings each for their tardiness:

Also they present that at this court came Thomas Barber one of the customary tenants of the Manor of Datchurst and then and there in full and open court surrendered into the hands of the lord of the said manor by the hands and acceptance of the said Deputy Steward by the rod according to the custom of the said manor all that customary messuage or tenement garden and two orchards lying to the highway leading from Sevenoaks to Tonbridge towards the east and to the lands of [blank] Wickenden formerly Whitakers and since Eldridges and late his father Thomas Barber held of the said manor by copy of court roll and yearly rent of sixpence To the use and behoof of George Children Esq his Heirs and Assigns for ever  
- amerce the defaulters ten shillings each.

*Transcribed by G. Barber, 2014*

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<sup>368</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).

**Transfer of Mary Barber's House to Edward Peckham, 1862.** <sup>369</sup>

The admission of Edward Peckham to the property on the death of Thomas Peckham, the previous owner. The property was also enfranchised at this time, no longer beholden to the manor (i.e. now freehold).

Manors of Hildenborough otherwise Datchurst, Lamport, Martin Abbey and Nizells in the Honor of Otford in the County of Kent

Be it remembered that by Indenture made the second day of September one thousand eight hundred and sixty two Between Charles Alliston of Mancetter Lodge near Atherstone in the County of Warwick Esquire, George Alliston of Warnford Court Throgmorton Street in the City of London Esquire and Smith Spencer Wigg of Lincolns Inn in the County of Middlesex Esquire of the one part and Edward Peckham of Hildenborough in the Parish of Tonbridge in the County of Kent Carpenter of the other part For the consideration therein mentioned the said Charles Alliston George Alliston and Smith Spencer Wigg did grant release and confirm unto the said Edward Peckham (party hereto) and his heirs All that customary or copyhold messuage or tenement garden and two orchards lying to the Highway leading from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks towards the East and to land at one time of Wickenden formerly Whittakers afterwards Eldridges then of Thomas Barton [Barber] afterwards of George Children then of his Assignees and since of Thomas Peckham deceased within and holden of the Manor of Hildenborough otherwise Datchurst aforesaid at the yearly rent of six pence Together with all rights members and appurtenances To hold unto the said Edward Peckham party hereto his heirs and assigns for ever absolutely enfranchised and acquitted exonerated and for ever discharged of and from the Copyhold tenure thereof and of and from all yearly and other payments rents quit rents chief rents customary or copyhold rents fines heriots suits and services and all other or customary or copyhold payments duties services or customs whatsoever which by or according to the custom of the said Manor of Hildenborough otherwise Datchurst the said messuages or tenements and hereditaments thereby granted and released or any of them were or was or had been subject or liable to or charged or chargeable with as copyhold premises holden of or as possessed of the same Manor.

Examined Henly Grove Smith [Steward]

*Transcribed by G. Barber, July 2014*

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<sup>369</sup> Court Rolls of the manor of Datchurst, Kent, England, 1718-1884 (KHL: U55 M378).

## APPENDIX IV

### Thomas and Mary Barber Mortgage for £500 (10th October 1788)

Indenture between Thomas and Mary Barber of Ightham and George Children of Tonbridge for the mortgage of Finches, Tonbridge Town Site Land and the Hildenborough house for £500 at 4.5% interest.<sup>370</sup>

#### Summary

One acre of land at the lower end of Tonbridge, a property called Finches and two dwellings and an acre of land in Hildenborough are being mortgaged by Thomas Barber of Ightham to George Children of Tonbridge for the sum of £500 on 10 October 1788. Thomas agrees to free the properties from claims for dower by his wife Mary and any entails on the property and that he and Mary will record this at the Court of Common Pleas in London, the court which dealt with property disputes etc. Thomas also says that he is lawfully seized of the property in fee simple – so there are no entails or claims on it by anyone else – and he has the right and power to mortgage the properties. The £500 plus interest at 4.5% per annum is to be repaid to George Children at his house in Tonbridge on 10 April next and until this is done Thomas has the right to occupy the properties and to take the rents, profits etc. If he does not repay these sums on the day fixed then George Children can occupy the properties and receive the rents etc. However, the right of Elizabeth Barber, widow, to take a £20 annuity for life out of the properties, conferred on her by a deed dated 30 January 1776, is preserved. Thomas Barber is to keep the premises insured for at least £400 and if the properties are damaged by fire then the insurance money is to go towards paying off the mortgage money.

*Summary by Gillian Rickard, October 2013*

#### Transcription

This Indenture of three Parts made the Tenth day of October in the twenty eighth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty eight Between Thomas Barber of Ightham in the County of Kent Malster son and heir of Thomas Barber late of Tonbridge in the County aforesaid Malster deceased and Mary the wife of the said Thomas Barber party hereto of the first part George Children of Tonbridge aforesaid Esquire of the second part and Henry Headland of Tonbridge aforesaid Gentleman

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<sup>370</sup> Indenture, Mortgage of Finches, Tonbridge Town Site Land and Hildenborough to George Children (KHLC: U624/T20, Somerhill Estate Papers).

of the third part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to the said Thomas Barber party hereto in hand at or before the sealing and Delivery of these presents well and truly paid by the said George Children the Receipt whereof the said Thomas Barber party hereto doth hereby acknowledge and thereof and of and from every part thereof doth acquit release and for ever discharge the said George Children his Executors and Administrators and every of them by these presents he the said Thomas Barber party hereto hath granted bargained sold and demised and by these presents doth grant bargain sell and demise unto the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns *All that Messuage or Tenement with the Malthouse Barn Stable Yard Backside Garden and Ground thereunto belonging or appertaining or therewith now or late demised letten used held occupied or enjoyed containing by estimation one acre be the same more or less with the appurtenances situate lying and being at or near the Lower end of the Town of Tonbridge in Tonbridge* aforesaid and heretofore in the tenure or occupation of the said Thomas Barber deceased since of Elizabeth Barber the Widow and the said Thomas Barber party hereto and now of William Jewhurst his Assigns or Undertenants And also *all those two pieces or parcels of Land commonly called or known by the name of the Finches or howsoever otherwise called or known or whether called or known by any Name or Names or not containing by estimation four acres be the same more or less with the appurtenances situate lying and being at or near Lodge Oak in the parish of Tonbridge* aforesaid and heretofore in the tenure or occupation of the said Thomas Barber deceased since of the said Elizabeth Barber and Thomas Barber party hereto and now of the said William Jewhurst his Assigns or Undertenants And also all that *Messuage or Tenement now divided into two several habitations or dwellings with the Yards Backsides Gardens and Orchards thereunto respectively apportioned and belonging and therewith now or late severally demised letten occupied or enjoyed containing by Estimation one acre of Ground be the same more or less with the appurtenances situate lying and being in Hildenborough* in the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid and now or late in the Tenure or Occupation of the Widow Kemp and John Wells or one of them their or one of their Assigns or Undertenants And all Houses Outhouses Edifices Buildings Trees Ways Paths Passages Waters Watercourses Hedges Hedgerows Fences Rents Easements Commons Profits Commodities Hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever to the said Messuages or Tenements Land Hereditaments and Premises hereinbefore described or any or either of them belonging or in any wise appertaining or accepted reputed or taken demised letten used occupied or enjoyed as part parcel or member of them or any of them or to be belonging thereunto and the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders thereof and of every part and parts thereof with their Appurtenances And all the Estate Right Title Interest Use Trust Possession Property Possibility Claim and Demand whatsoever relating to the Title of him the said Thomas Barber party hereto of in and to the said hereditaments and premises and every or any part thereof And all Deeds Evidences and Writings whatsoever relating



to the Title of the said Hereditaments and Premises and every or any part thereof now in the Hands Custody or Power of the said Thomas Barber party hereto or of any other Person or Persons to his use or by or with his Delivery or Privity or which he can lawfully come by without suit To have and to hold the said Messuages or Tenements Buildings pieces or parcels of Land Hereditaments and Appurtenances and all and singular other the premises hereinbefore described and expressed to be hereby granted and demised with their and every of their Appurtenances unto the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns from the Day next before the Day of the Date of these presents for and during and unto the full End and Term of one thousand years thence next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended without Impeachment of Waste yielding and paying therefore unto the said Thomas Barber party hereto his heirs or assigns upon every Tenth day of October during the said term the Rent of one Pepper Corn if the same shall be lawfully demanded subject nevertheless to the proviso or Condition for Redemption hereinafter contained And for the more effectually securing to the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns the repayment of the said sum of five hundred pounds and the Interest thereof and for the barring and extinguishing the Dower and all Right and Title of Dower of her the said Mary the wife of the said Thomas Barber party hereto of in to or out of the said Heredit and premises hereinbefore described and to the End and Intent said Thomas Barber party hereto that all and every Estate and Estates tail and all Reversions and Remainders thereupon depending and expectant and all other Estate whatsoever had made created raised and now in being or in or upon the said hereby granted and demised Hereditaments and Premises or any part thereof shall and may be absolutely docked discontinued and barred and that the same premises with their Appurtenances shall and may be the better granted demised and assured unto the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns for the said term of one thousand years as aforesaid and subject thereto and to such other use and uses as are hereinafter expressed and declared concerning the same it is hereby covenanted concluded declared and fully agreed by and between all the said parties to these presents and in particular the said Thomas Barber party hereto for himself his Heirs Executors and Administrators and for the said Mary his wife doth hereby covenant promise and agree to and with the said Henry Headland and his heirs and the said Mary doth covenant and agree That they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife shall and will either alone or with some other person or persons as of Trinity Term now last past or of some other subsequent Term acknowledge and levy before his Majestys Justices of his Honourable Court of Common Pleas at Westminster or by Dedimus Potestatem in due form of Law and according to the usual course of that Court in such cases used unto the said Henry Headland and his heirs one or more fine or fines Sur Conusance de droit come ceo whereupon proclamations shall or may be had and made according to the form of the Statute in that case made and provided of the said Messuages or

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Tenements and Cottages Buildings Lands and Hereditaments hereinbefore described and expressed to be hereby granted and demised with their appurtenances (either alone or with other Lands or Tenements) by such apt and fit Name or Names Quality of Land and Number of Acres and in such manner and form and with such Certainities and Descriptions as shall be thought fit and requisite to ascertain and comprize the same And it is further covenanted granted concluded declared and fully agreed by and between the said parties and it is their true Intent and Meaning and so it is hereby declared to be That the said fine so as aforesaid or howsoever otherwise to be acknowledged had and levied and all and every other fine and fines which already are or is or hereafter shall be acknowledged made and levied of the said hereditaments and premises hereinbefore described or of any part or parcel thereof with their appurtenances either alone or with other hereditaments by or between the said parties to these presents or any of them or whereunto they or any of them shall or may be party or partys proxy or proxies shall be and enure and shall be adjudged deemed construed expounded and taken to be and enure and was and were and is and are intended to be and enure as for and concerning the said hereditaments and premises before mentioned to be hereby granted and demised with their appurtenances To the use and behoof of the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns from henceforth for during out and until the full end of the said term of one thousand years now next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended And for the Confirmation and Corroboration of the same Term and Estate But subject nevertheless to the provisoe or condition for Redemption hereinafter contained And from and immediately after the end ceasing surrender or other Determination of the said term of one thousand years and subject thereto To the use and behoof of such person and persons and for such Estate and Estates uses Intents Limitations and purposes and under and subject to such Provisoes Conditions and agreements as the said Thomas Barber and Mary his wife by any Deed or Deeds writing or Writings to be by both of them signed sealed and delivered in the presence of two or more credible Witnesses shall from time to time limit direct or appoint and for want of such Limitation Direction or Appointment and until such Limitation Direction or Appointment shall be made and until the Estate or Estates to be limited directed or appointed shall respectively commence and take effect and when and as soon as the Estate or Estates to be limited directed or appointed shall respectively end and determine and as to such part or parts thereof whereof as such Limitation Direction or Appointment shall be made to the only proper use and Behoof of the said Thomas Barber party hereto his Heirs and Assigns for ever and to and for all other Use or Uses End Intent or purpose whatsoever Provided always and these presents and the said term and Estate of one thousand years hereby granted and limited to the said George Children his Exors Administrators and Assigns is upon this express Condition following (that is to say) that if the said Thomas Barber party hereto his Heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns shall and do well and truly pay or cause to be paid

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unto the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns (at or in the dwelling house of the said George Children situate in Tonbridge aforesaid) the full and just sum of five hundred pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain with Interest for the same at the rate of four pounds and ten shillings for one hundred pounds for a year on the Tenth of April now next ensuing the date of these presents without fraud or further Delay and without any Deduction Defalcation or Abatement to be made of in or out of the said sum of five hundred pounds or the Interest thereof or any part thereof for or in respect of any Taxes Assessments sum or sums of Money or other Duties Charges or Impositions whatsoever which shall or may be taxed assessed or imposed on or paid or due or payable for or in respect of the said Premises or any of them or for or in respect of any other Cause Matter or Thing whatsoever that then and from thenceforth this present Grant and Demise and the Estate and Term of one thousand years hereby granted shall cease and determine and be utterly void any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding And the said Thomas Barber party hereto for himself his Heirs Executors and Administrators doth hereby covenant promise and agree to and with the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns in the manner following that is to say that he the said Thomas Barber party hereto his Heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns shall and will well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said George Children his Executors Administrators or Assigns the said sum of five hundred pounds and interest for the same after the rate at the day and place and in the manner and form in the provisoe hereinbefore contained mentioned and appointed for the payment thereof without any Deduction or Abatement whatsoever as aforesaid And further that he the said Thomas Barber party hereto at and immediately before the Execution of these presents standeth and is lawfully rightfully and absolutely seised of and in the said Messuages or Tenements Lands and Hereditaments hereby granted and demised or intended to be with their appurtenances of a good and perfect lawful absolute and indefeazible Estate of Inheritance in fee simple without any manner of Condition Power of Revocation Limitation of Use or Uses Reversion or Remainder over to any other person or persons or other Restraint Matter or Thing whatsoever to alter change charge revoke or determine the same And now also at the time of the Sealing and Delivery of these presents hath in himself good Right full power and absolute and lawful authority to grant bargain sell and demise the said Messuages or Tenements Lands Hereditaments and Premises hereby granted and demised or intended so to be with their Appurtenances unto the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns in the manner aforesaid and according to the true Meaning of these presents and further that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns from time to time and at all times from and after default shall be made in payment of the said sum of five hundred pounds and Interest at the day and place in and by the provisoe hereinbefore contained mentioned and appointed for the payment thereof for and during the Residue of the said

term of one thousand years then to come and unexpired peaceably and quietly to enter into and upon and to have hold use occupy possess and enjoy and receive and take the Rents Issues and Profits of the said Messuages or Tenements Lands

Hereditaments and Premises hereinbefore mentioned and expressed to be hereby granted and demised with their Appurtenances without the lawful Let Suit Trouble Claim Eviction Denial Molestation or Interruption whatsoever of or by the said Thomas Barber party hereto his Heirs Executors or Administrators of any of them or of or by any other person or persons whomsoever And to [keep? - parchment fold] free and clear and freely and clearly acquitted exonerated and discharged or otherwise by the said Thomas Barber party hereto his Heirs Executors or Administrators well and sufficiently saved defended kept [? - fold] and indemnified of from and against all former and other Gifts Grants Bargains and Sales Mortgages Leases Annuitys Jointures Dowers Uses Trusts Wills Intails Statutes Merchant and of the Staple Recognizances Judgements Extents Elegits Executions Rents Arrears of Rents Legacys Sum and Sums of Money and of from and against all other Estates Titles Troubles Charges and Incumbrances whatsoever the Estate Right Title and Interest of the said Elizabeth Barber widow and her assigns to have receive and take out of and from the said devised Hereditaments and Premises or some part thereof One Annuity or yearly Rent Charge of Twenty pounds during her natural Life by virtue of one Indenture tripartite bearing date on or about the thirtieth day of January one thousand seven hundred and seventy six and made or expressed to be made between the said Thomas Barber party hereto of the first part the said Elizabeth Barber of the second part and William Waite of Tonbridge aforesaid yeoman of the third part and the Rents and Services from henceforth to grow due and payable to the chief Lord or Lords of the fee [and/or - fold] fees of whom the said premises or any part thereof are or is holden for and in respect thereof only and always excepted and foreprized And moreover that the said Thomas Barber party hereto and his Heirs and all and every other person and persons now having or lawfully claiming or to claim any Estate Right Title Interest Claim or Demand whatsoever in to or out of the said Messuages or Tenements Lands Hereditaments and Premises hereinbefore mentioned to be hereby granted and demised with their Appurtenances or any part thereof save and except the said Elizabeth Barber and her assigns in respect of the said Annuity shall and will at all times hereafter from and after default shall be made in payment of the said sum of five hundred pounds and Interest at the day and place in and by the provisos hereinbefore contained limited and appointed for the payment thereof for and during all the residue of the said term of one thousand years then to come and unexpired make do or execute or cause to be made done or executed all such further and other lawful Acts Deeds Assurances Matters and Things whatsoever for the further better and more effectually conveying and assuring the said Hereditaments and Premises hereby granted and demised or intended so to be with their Appurtenances unto the said George Children his Executors Administrators



and Assigns for the then residue of the said term of one thousand years absolutely and not subject or liable to but discharged of and from the said provisoe and Condition for Redemption of the said premises and all other provisoes and conditions for Redemption whatsoever and all Suits and Demands in Equity concerning the same as by them the said George Children his Executors Administrators or Assigns or any of them or any of his or their Counsel learned in the Law shall be reasonably devised or advised and required And further that the said Thomas Barber party hereto and his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns shall and will at all times during the continuance of this demise insure and keep insured all the Messuages or Tenements Buildings and premises hereinbefore described and expressed to be hereby granted and demised with their Appurtenances at some or one of the Public Insurance Offices in London or Westminster at the sum of four hundred pounds at the least and in case such Insurance shall at any time be neglected to be made that then and so often it shall and may be lawful to and for the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns to make and continue such Insurance from time to time for the same and in manner aforesaid and whatever Sum or Sums of Money shall at any time or times by said George Children his Executors Administrators or Assigns for the Premium Costs and Expenses of any such Insurance or Insurances the amount of the sum or Sums so paid together with Lawful Interest thereon from the time of the said Advancement thereof respectively shall be charged upon the said hereby mortgaged premises for the benefit of said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns and in case of Damage by fire happening to the said mortgaged premises the sum or sums payable or recoverable upon any policy or policies of Insurance in respect thereof shall be paid and applied so soon as received in for and towards the satisfaction and discharge of the Principal Money and Interest then due and owing upon this Security so far as the same Monies will extend And lastly it is hereby declared and agreed by and between the said parties to these presents that until default shall be made in payment of the said sum of five hundred pounds and Interest or some part thereof at the time and in manner hereinbefore mentioned and appointed for the payment of the same it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Thomas Barber party hereto his Heirs and Assigns peaceably and quietly to have hold occupy and possess and enjoy and to receive and take the Rents Issues and Profits of the said hereinbefore expressed to be hereby granted and demised Hereditaments and Premises without any Let Suit Trouble or Interruption Claim or Demand of or by the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns or any person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim by from or under him them or any of them In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their Hands and Seals the day and year first above written.

[signed]

Tho. Barber, Mary Barber, Geo: Children, Henry Headland.

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, October 2013*

# APPENDIX V

## Sale of the Hildenborough Property (*12th & 13th Oct 1801*)

### 1. Introduction: Notes on Lease and Release

(The following notes are an extract from the University of Nottingham web site: “<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/deedsindepth/freehold/leaserelease.aspx>” accessed 16 May 2014).

The lease and release was the most popular and widespread way to record simple sales of property from the 17th century up to 1845. The lease and release format was also used to convey property for the purposes of mortgages and settlements.

The ‘lease’ and the ‘release’ are two separate documents. It is quite usual for one of them to have become separated from the other over time. However, there are clues within the text which make it clear that the deed forms part of a lease and release transaction.

In 1841, the Conveyance by Release Act made it possible to convey land by release only. The lease and release became obsolete and was replaced by a ‘statutory release’. Releases were themselves abolished in 1845 and replaced by a simple ‘grant’, later known as a ‘conveyance’.

#### *Features of lease and releases*

- 16th-19th centuries
- two separate documents, one small (lease) and one large (release)
- lease and release sometimes sewn together, but more often folded separately
- lease usually dated a day before the release
- written on parchment
- usually written in English
- indenture (wavy top edge)
- seal

#### *Important words and phrases*

A lease and release records in the past tense what has been done to transfer the property. Conveyance by lease and release was a two-stage process.

**Stage 1 - The Lease:** a leasehold interest in the land was conveyed from A to B by means of a bargain and sale (‘The Lease’). This bargain and sale did not have to be enrolled, because it did not transfer freehold property. It was not a real lease because the intention was to follow it with a release in order to convey the freehold. The term of the lease, the consideration money, and the rent specified in the lease were all nominal. Usually the land was bargained and sold for a term

of six months or one year, for a nominal consideration of 5 shillings, and a rent of one peppercorn per year.

*Form of words in the lease:*

[A] hath bargained and sold [or hath granted, bargained and sold] ... from the day next before the date of these presents for and during and unto the full end and term of one whole year [or six months] ... to the intent and purpose that by virtue of these presents and by the force of the Statute made for transferring Uses into possession, that the lands are in actual possession of B.

**Stage 2 – The Release:** at some point afterwards - usually the next day, but not always - A conveyed the reversion of the lease, that is, his right to the freehold property, to B or his trustee ('The Release'). At this point the real consideration money for the property was paid. B was now the owner of the freehold. Releases often involved a number of different parties, especially if they were drawn up as part of a family settlement. It can be quite hard to determine exactly what part each party was playing in the transaction.

*Form of words in the release:*

Hath granted bargained sold aliened released and confirmed [the lands], in his actual possession by virtue of a bargain and sale [recites the terms of the lease] ... for ever

The advantage of the lease and release as a form of conveyance was that neither stage dealt with freehold property. Both stages were technically concerned only with interests and rights. This therefore avoided the requirement to have the conveyance enrolled and made public.

## 2. Lease Agreement, 12th October 1801

Lease Agreement between Thomas and Mary Barber and George Children being part of the documentation for the sale of their property at Hildenborough by Lease and Release to George Children. This document is the lease part of the process.<sup>371</sup>

**This Indenture** made the Twelfth day of October in the forty second year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and in the Year of our Lord one Thousand eight hundred and one Between Thomas Barber of Tonbridge in the County of Kent Yeoman and Mary his wife of the one part and George Children of the same place Esquire of the other part **Witnesseth** that for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings of lawful money of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

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<sup>371</sup> Indenture, Sale by Lease and Release of the Hildenborough property to George Children, 12 Oct 1801 (Lease) and 13 Oct 1801 (Release), (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1).

Ireland current in Great Britain to the said Thomas Barber and Mary his wife of hand at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents well and truly paid by the said George Children the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged They the said Thomas Barber and Mary his wife have and each of them hath bargained and sold and by these presents Do and each of them Doth bargain and sell unto the said George Children **All** that *messuage or Tenement now divided into two several habitations or Dwellings with the yards backsides Gardens and orchards there unto respectively apportioned and belonging and therewith now or late severally demised letten used occupied or enjoyed containing by estimation one acre of Ground or the same more or less with the appurtenances situate lying and being in Hildenborough in the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid and now or late in the tenure or occupation of the Widow Kemp and John Wells or one of them there or one of their assigns or undertenants And all and all manner of houses outhouses edifices buildings Trees ways paths passages waters watercourses hedges hedgerows fences rents easements commons profits commodities hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said Messuage tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereinbefore mentioned or any or other of them belonging or in anywise appertaining or accepted reputed or later demised letten used occupied or enjoyed as part parcel or member of them or any of them or to be belonging thereunto And the reversion and reversions and remainder and remainders thereof and of every part and parcel thereof with their appurtenances **To have and to hold** the said messuage tenement or Dwellings Ground hereditaments and all and singular other the Premises hereinbefore mentioned and intended to be hereby bargained and sold with the appurtenances unto the said George Children his executors administrators and assigns from the Day next before the Day of the Date of these presents for and during and unto the full end and term of one whole year from thence next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended yielding and paying therefore at the end of the said Rent unto the said Thomas Barber and Mary his wife the rent of one pepper if the same shall be lawfully demanded To the intent and purpose that by virtue of these presents and by force of the Statute made for transforming uses into possession the said George Children may be in the actual possession of the said hereditaments and premises with the appurtenances and may be thereby enabled to accept and take a Grant release and confirmation of the reversion and Inheritance thereof to him and his heirs to the only proper use and behoof of the said George Children his heirs and assigns forever **In Witness** whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the Day and Year first above written*

[reverse]

Signed Sealed and Delivered

by the within named Mary Barber

in the presence of [signed] Thos. Gower Jno. Ashdowne

Signed Sealed and Delivered



Dated 12th day of October 1801	}	
	}	
Mr. Thomas Barber	}	
and ux. ~~~~~	}	Lease for a Year
	}	
to	}	
	}	
George Children Esq.	}	

*Transcribed by Margaret Gaffney for Geoffrey Barber, 15 May 2014*

Release Agreement between Thomas and Mary Barber and George Children being part of the documentation for the sale of their property at Hildenborough by Lease and Release to George Children. This document is the release part of the process.<sup>372</sup>

**This Indenture of three Parts** made the thirteenth day of October in the forty second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of the united Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland being Defender of the faith and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one Between Thomas Barber of Tonbridge in the County of Kent Yeoman and Mary his wife of the first part George Children of the same place Esquire of the second part and John Cheesman of Tonbridge aforesaid Shopkeeper of the third part **Whereas** in and by a certain Indenture of mortgage or Demise bearing date on or about the tenth day of October which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight and made or expressed to be made between the said Thomas Barber by the name and addition of Thomas Barber of Ightham in the county of Kent Malster son and heir of Thomas Barber then late of Tonbridge in the County of Kent Malster deceased and Mary the wife of the said Thomas Barber party hereto of the first part the said George Children of the second part and Henry Headland of Tonbridge aforesaid Gentleman of the third part It was witnessed that in consideration of the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain therein mentioned to be paid to the said Thomas Barber party thereto by the said George Children and which was paid according to the said Thomas Barber party thereto Did grant bargain sell and demise unto the said George Children his executors administrators and assigns amongst and together with other hereditaments and premises

372 Indenture, Sale by Lease and Release of the Hildenborough property to George Children, 12 Oct 1801 (Lease) and 13 Oct 1801 (Release), (Tonbridge Library: TU1/M2/1).

the messuage tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereinafter particularly mentioned and described To hold unto the said George Children his executors administrators and assigns from thenceforth for \the term of/ one thousand years thence next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended without impeachment of or for any manner of waste at and under the yearly rent of a pepper corn payable as therein mentioned In which said Indenture now in recital is contained a covenant on the part and of the said Thomas Barber party hereto for himself his heirs executors and administrators and for the said Mary his wife that they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife should and would before the end of Trinity term then last past or some other subsequent term acknowledge and levy as therein mentioned unto the said Henry Headland and his heirs one or more fine or fines Sur comisance de droit come ceo et[c] with proclamations to be thereupon has and made according to the forum of the Statute in that case made and provided of amongst other hereditaments and premises the messuages tenements or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned and described with their appurtenances And it was thereby declared that the said fine to be levied as therein mentioned should be and owed? to the use of the said George Children his executors administrators and assigns for the said term of one thousand years for the Confirmation and Corroboration of the same term and estate subject nevertheless to the provisor or condition for redemption thereafter contained with remainder To the use and Behoof of such person and persons and for such estate and estates uses intents limitations and purposes and under and subject to such provisors Conditions and Agreements as the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife by any Deed or Deeds writing or writings to be by both of them signed sealed and delivered in the presence of two or more Credible witnesses should from time to time limit direct or appoint with the ultimate remainder To the use of the said Thomas Barber party hereto his heirs and assigns for ever as in and by the said in part recited Indenture relation being thereunto had with more fully appear And whereas the said George Children hath lately received of the said Thomas Barber and Mary his wife or by their direction all principal and Interest monies due and owing to him on the said recited Security and premises and hath by and according to the direction of the said Thomas Barber and Mary his wife assigned the other hereditaments comprized in the said mortgage security for the residue of the residue of the said Term the tenth whereof is hereby acknowledged and declared And whereas the said George Children hath contracted and agreed with the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife for the absolute purchase of the freehold and Inheritance in fee simple in possession of and in the messuage Tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned and described at and *for the price or sum of One Hundred and Fifty pounds* Now this Indenture witnesseth that in pursuance of the said contract or agreement and for and in consideration of the sum of One hundred and Fifty pounds of lawful money of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland current in Great Britain to the said Thomas Barber

party hereto and Mary his wife in hand at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents well and truly paid by the said George Children the receipt whereof and that the same is the full consideration for the purchase of the said messuage tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned and described and intended to be hereby granted and released they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife do and each of them doth hereby confess and acknowledge and thereof and therefrom and of and from the same and every part thereof do and each of them doth acquit release and discharge the said George Children his heirs executors administrators and Assigns and every of them for ever by these presents They the said Thomas Barber \party hereto/ and Mary his wife Have and each of them Hath granted bargained sold aliened released and confirmed and by these presents Do and each of them Doth grant bargain sell alien release and confirm unto the said George Children (in his actual possession now being by virtue of a Bargain and sale to him thereof made by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife in consideration of five shillings by Indenture bearing date the Day next before the day of the date

[page two]

Of these presents for the term of one whole year commencing from the day next before the day of the date of the same Indenture of Bargain and sale and by force of the Statute made for transferring uses into possession and to his heirs *All that messuage or Tenement now divided into two several habitations or Dwellings with the Yards Banksides Gardens and Orchards thereunto respectively apportioned and belonging and therewith now or late severally demised letten used occupied or enjoyed containing by estimation one acre of Ground be the same more or less with the appurtenances situate lying and being in Hildenborough in the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid and now or late in the tenure or occupation of the widow Kemp and John Wells* or one of them their or one of their Assigns or undertenants And all and all manner of houses outhouses edifices Buildings Trees ways paths passages waters watercourses hedges hedgerows fences Rents easments Commons profits Commodities hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said messuage Tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereinbefore described or any of other of them belonging or in anywise appertaining or accepted reputed or taken demised letten used occupied or enjoyed as part parcel or member of them or any of them or to be belonging thereunto And the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders thereof and of every part and parcel thereof with their appurtenances And all the estate right Title Interest use trust possession property possibility Inheritance claim and Demand whatsoever at law and in equity of them the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife and each of them of in and to the said hereby granted and released hereditaments and premises and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances And all Deeds evidences and writings receipts and muniments whatsoever touching or concerning the same hereditaments

and premises or any part thereof solely together with the attested copies of all such other Deeds evidences and writings as relate to or concern the same jointly with any other lands tenements or hereditaments of greater value which are now in the hands custody or possession of them the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or either of them or of any other person or persons to their or either of their use or by or with their or either of their delivery or privity or which they or either of them can or \ may/ lawfully come by without suit at Law or in equity To have and to hold the said messuage Tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments and all and singular other the premises hereinbefore mentioned to be hereby granted and released with their appurtenances unto the said George Children his heirs and Assigns To the only proper use and behoof of the said George Children his heirs and assigns for ever whereby it is intended between the said parties hereto that the said Term of one Thousand years so far as the same concerns the said hereby released hereditaments And Whereas the said Fine so covenanted to be levied by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife as aforesaid hath been duly levied accordingly as by the same remaining on record may appear Now this Indenture further Witnesseth that for the considerations aforesaid and to the intent and Purpose that the said Messuage Tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments shall and may be more effectually conveyed and assured unto the said George Children his heirs and assigns as aforesaid the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife in pursuance of the power and authority to them given and reserved in and by the said in part recited Indenture and of all other powers and authorities vested in them or to them belonging or appertaining or in anywise reserved or given and in part exercise and execution thereof Have and each of them hath limited directed and appointed and by this present Deed or writing by both of them signed sealed and delivered in the presence of the two credible persons whose names are intended to be hereupon indorsed and witnessed attesting the one execution hereof by them the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife Do and each of them Doth limit direct and appoint that from henceforth the messuage tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereinbefore particularly described and expressed to be hereby granted and released with the appurtenances and the said fine so as aforesaid levied thereof and the said hereinbefore in part recited Indenture and all other conveyances and assurances in the Law of the same hereditaments whereunto they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife are or is party or parties privy or privies shall as to the said Messuage Tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments with the appurtenances be and enure and be adjudged deemed construed expounded and taken to be and enure and the said Henry Headland the Comiser? in the said fine and his heirs shall stand and be seised of the said hereditaments and premises with the appurt[enance]s To the only proper use and Behoof of the said George Children his heirs and assigns for ever and to and for no other use and intent or purpose whatsoever And the said Thomas Barber party hereto doth hereby for himself and for the said Mary his wife his and her heirs executors and administrators covenant promise and agree to



and with the said George Children his heirs and assigns in manner following that is to say That the said hereinbefore recited power of Appointment is at or immediately before the sealing and delivery of these presents in full force and in nowise suspended released or extinguished And also that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said George Children his heirs and assigns from time to time and at all time for ever hereafter peaceably and quietly to have hold use occupy possess and enjoy the said Messuage Tenement or Dwellings ground and hereditaments hereby granted and released limited directed and appointed with the appurtenances and receive and take the Rents Issues and Profits thereof without any lawful let suit Trouble Claim eviction Denial molestation or interruption of or by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or

[*page three*]

Either of them their or either of their heirs executors or administrators or of or by Thomas Barber deceased the Great Uncle or Thomas Barber deceased the father of the said Thomas Barber party hereto of of [*sic*] or by any other person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim by from or under him them or any of them or by from or under his their or any of their act or acts means Consent privity procurement or Agreement And that free and clear and freely and clearly acquitted and discharged or otherwise by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife their heirs executors or administrators well and sufficiently saved defended kept harmless and indemnified of from and against all Titles Troubles Charges and incumbrances whatsoever at any time heretofore had made committed omitted done or suffered by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or by the said Thomas Barber the Great uncle or the said Thomas Barber the father of the said Thomas Barber party hereto or hereafter to be had made committed omitted done or suffered by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or either of them their or either of their heirs executors or administrators / The said hereinbefore in part recited or noticed mortgage Security which is now satisfied and paid as aforesaid the Land Tax imposed or to be imposed on the said hereby released hereditaments and the rents and services from henceforth to grow one and payable to the Chief Lord or Lords of the fee or fees of whom the said premises or any of them are or is holden in respect thereof only and always excepted / And further that they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife and each of them their and each of their heirs and all and every other person and persons now having or lawfully claiming or who at any time or times hereafter shall or may have or lawfully claim any estate right Title or Interest of in or to the said messuage tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereinbefore expressed to be hereby granted and released limited directed and appointed with the appurt[ance]s by from or under the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or the said Thomas Barber the Great uncle or the said Thomas Barber the father of the said Thomas Barber party

hereto or either of them shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter at the reasonable request and at the proper

Costs and Charges and the said George Children his heirs or assigns male do acknowledge levy execute and suffer or cause to be made done acknowledged levied executed and suffered all such further and other lawful and reasonable act and acts thing and things devised conveyanced and assured in the Law whatsoever for the further better more perfectly and absolutely conveying settling and assuring the said messuage tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereby granted and released limited directed appointed with the appurtenances unto the said George Children his heirs and assigns for ever be the same by feoffment fine or fines recovery or recoveries Deed or Deeds inrolled or not inrolled surrender or surrenders in the event of the same hereditaments or any part thereof being held by Copy of Court Roll or by such other ways and means in the Law as by the Counsel of the said George Children his heirs or assigns shall be reasonably devised or advised and required so as such further conveyances and assurances contain in them no further or more extensive Covenant or warranty than only against the persons making the same and their heirs and so as the parties who shall be required to make and execute the same be not for the doing thereof compelled or compellable to go or leave from the place or places of his her or their respective Dwelling or abode at the time of such request to be made And Whereas in regard that the said hereinbefore in part recited Indenture of mortgage bearing date the tenth Day of October one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight related to or concerns as well the Title to the said messuage tenement or Dwellings Ground and hereditaments hereby granted and released limited directed and appointed with the appurtenances as also to the Title to other hereditaments of greater value comprized in the same Indenture and purchased by the same John Cheesman and the same Indenture hath been deposited with and is now in the hands of the said John Cheesman and he hath agreed to enter into such Covenant for the production of the same as hereinafter mentioned Now this Indenture further Witnesseth that in consideration of all and singular the premises the said John Cheesman doth hereby for himself his heirs executors administrators and assigns covenant promise and agree to and with the said George Children his heirs and assigns That he the said John Cheesman his heirs executors administrators or assigns shall and will at all times hereafter at and upon the reasonable request and at the proper Costs and Charges in the Law of the said George Children his heirs or assigns produce and show forth or cause to be produced and shown forth unto the said George Children his heirs or assigns or to his their or any of their Counsel Attornies Agents or Solicitors aor at any Trial or hearing in any Court of Law or equity or otherwise as occasion shall require the said hereinbefore recited Indenture of mortgage or Demise of the tenth Day of October one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight and also shall and will at the like request Costs and Charges deliver or cause to be delivered unto the said George Children his heirs or assigns the attested copies of the same Indenture for the better



Scaled and delivered by the within  
named George Children in the presence of  
[blank]

[outside title]

Dated 13th day of October 1801

Mr Thomas Barber and ux. }

}

}

}

To } Release and appointment  
} of the uses of a Fine

}

}

George Children Esquire }

*Transcribed by Margaret Gaffney for Geoffrey Barber, 4 Jun 2014*



## APPENDIX VI

### Payout of Mortgage and Sale of the Finches Property

*(26th Dec 1801)*

Indenture between Thomas and Mary Barber of Tonbridge and George Children of Tonbridge and John Cheesman of Tonbridge and William Archer of Maidstone regarding the payout of a mortgage taken in 1788 and the sale of a property in Tonbridge known as Finches (4 acres near Lodge Oak) to John Cheesman.<sup>373</sup>

#### Summary

The 1788 mortgage of Thomas Barber's properties by George Children for £500 was not repaid on the due date, so interest continued to accrue. This indenture dated 26 December 1801 states that recently Thomas Barber sold part of the mortgaged properties - it does not say which part - to William Wingate of Tonbridge, yeoman, for the sum of £425, leaving at the date of this indenture £360/4s/6d still owing on the mortgage to George Children. This indenture is a deed of sale to John Cheesman of the property called Finches for the sum of £590, of which £360/4s/6d will be paid by John direct to George Children to completely discharge the mortgage and the balance of £229/15s/6d will be paid to Thomas Barber. Then Thomas and Mary stated that they have full power and authority to sell Finches and neither they nor anyone connected to them or to Thomas Barber, the great-uncle of the present Thomas, or Thomas Barber, father of the present Thomas can have any further claim on the property being sold.

*Summary by Gillian Rickard, October 2013*

The William Wingate mentioned in this document is likely a family relative, as the Wingate family are mentioned in Thomas Barber's will of 1749. He is probably the son of William Wingate and Ann Jeffery, with Ann Jeffery being the daughter of William Jeffery and Elizabeth Barber (daughter of Thomas Barber and Mary Rootes).

*Geoffrey Barber*

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<sup>373</sup> Indenture between Thomas and Mary Barber of Tonbridge and George Children of Tonbridge and William Archer of Maidstone regarding the payout of a mortgage taken in 1788, and the sale of a property in Tonbridge known as Finches (4 acres near Lodge Oak) to John Cheesman (KHL: U624/T20, Somerhill Estate Papers).

## Transcription

This Indenture of four Parts made the twenty sixth day of December in the forty second year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of the united Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the faith and in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight hundred and one Between Thomas Barber of Tonbridge in the County of Kent yeoman and Mary his wife of the first part George Children of Tonbridge aforesaid Esquire of the second part John Cheesman of the same place shopkeeper of the third part and William Archer of Maidstone in the said County Cornfactor of the fourth part Whereas in and by a certain Indenture of mortgage or Demise bearing date on or about the tenth Day of October which was in the year one Thousand seven hundred and eighty eight and made or expressed to be made between the said Thomas Barber (by the name and addition of Thomas Barber of Ightham in the County of Kent Malster, son and heir of Thomas Barber then late of Tonbridge in the County of Kent Malster deceased) and Mary the wife of the said Thomas Barber party hereto of the first part the said George Children of the second part and Henry Headland of Tonbridge aforesaid Gentleman of the third part it was witnessed that in consideration of the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain therein mentioned to be paid to the said Thomas Barber party hereto by the said George Children and which was paid accordingly he the said Thomas Barber party hereto did grant bargain sell and demise unto the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns amongst [words lost due to fold in parchment] parcels of land hereditaments and premises hereinafter particularly mentioned and described to hold to the said George Children his Executors Administrators and Assigns from thenceforth for the Term of one Thousand years thence next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended without impeachment of or for any manner of waste at and under the yearly rent of a pepper corn payable as therein mentioned In which said Indenture now in recital is contained a Covenant on the part of the said Thomas Barber party thereto for himself and his heirs executors and administrators and for the said Mary his wife that they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife should and would as of Trinity Term then last past or of some other subsequent term acknowledge and levy as therein mentioned unto the said Henry Headland and his heirs one or more fine or fines Sur Conusance de droit come ceo &c with proclamations to be had and made according to the form of the Statute in that case made and provided of (amongst other hereditaments and premises) the several pieces and parcels of land hereafter mentioned and described with their appurtenances And it was thereby declared that the said fine to be levied and therein mentioned should be and enure To the use of the said George Children his executors administrators and assigns for the said term of one thousand years for the Confirmation and Corroboration of the said term and estate subject nevertheless to the provisoe or condition for Redemption therein mentioned with remainder To the use and behoof of

such person and persons and for such estate and estates uses intents limitations and purposes and under and subject to such provisoes Conditions and agreements as the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife by any Deed or Deeds writing or writings to be by both of them signed sealed and delivered in the presence of two or more Credible witnesses should from time to time limit direct or appoint with remainder To the the said Thomas Barber party hereto his heirs and assigns for ever And in the said recited Indenture is contained a provisoe that on payment by the said Thomas Barber party hereto his heirs executors administrators or assigns unto the said George Children his executors administrators or assigns of the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain with Interest for the same at the date on the Day and at the place therein particularly mentioned That then the said Demise and Term of one thousand years should be void as in and by the said in part recited Indenture by relation being thereunto had more plainly may appear And whereas default was made in payment of the said sum of five hundred pounds with Interest at the time appointed for payment thereof in and by the said recited provisoe whereby the estate and interest of and in the said George Children of and in the said mortgaged hereditaments became absolute for the remainder of the said term of one thousand years and redeemable only in equity *And whereas the said George Children hath lately received of the said Thomas Barber and Mary his wife or by their direction in part discharge of his said mortgage Debt the sum of four hundred and twenty five pounds being the purchase money for part of the said Mortgaged hereditaments sold and conveyed to William Wingate of Tonbridge* aforesaid yeoman the truth whereof is hereby acknowledged and declared And upon an account this day made and stated there appears to remain due and owing to the said George Children on the said recited Security and premises for principal and Interest the sum of Three hundred and sixty pounds four shillings and sixpence only And whereas the said John Cheesman hath consented and agreed with the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife for the absolute purchase of the freehold and Inheritance in fee simple in possession of and in the piece or parcels of land and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned and described, being other part of the hereditaments comprized in the said term of one thousand years at and for the price or sum of five hundred and ninety pounds of which it hath been agreed between the said Parties hereto that the Sum of Three hundred and sixty pounds four shillings and sixpence shall be paid by the said John Cheesman unto the said George Children in full discharge of all monies remaining due to him on the said recited Security and premises as aforesaid and that thereupon he the said George Children shall assign the said pieces or parcels of land and hereditaments or the residue of the said term to the said John Cheesman of Tonbridge aforesaid yeoman his executors administrators and assigns In Trust to attend the Inheritance of the same hereditaments Now this Indenture witnesseth that for and in consideration of all and singular the premises and also in Consideration of the sum of three hundred and sixty pounds four shillings and sixpence of lawful money of the

united Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Current in Great Britain to the said George Children in hand at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents well and truly paid by the said John Cheesman at the request and by the direction of the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife testified by their signing sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof and that the same is in full satisfaction and discharge of all monies now remaining due and owing to him on the before recited Security he the said George Children doth hereby confess and acknowledge and hereof and therefrom and of and from the same and every part hereof doth acquit release and discharge the said John Cheesman and Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife their and each of their heirs executors administrators and assigns and every of them for ever by these presents And also in consideration of the further sum of two hundred and twenty nine pounds fifteen shillings and six pence of like lawful money by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife in hand at the same time well and truly paid by the said John Cheesman the receipt whereof and that the same together with the sum of three hundred and sixty pounds four shillings and sixpence so as aforesaid paid to the said George Children making together the sum of five hundred and ninety pounds the sum of three hundred and sixty pounds four shillings and sixpence is the full consideration money agreed upon for the absolute purchase of the piece or parcels of land and hereditaments hereafter mentioned and described and intended to be hereby granted and released they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife do and each of them doth hereby confess and acknowledge and thereof and of and from the same and every part thereof do and each of them doth acquit release the said John Cheesman his heirs executors administrators and assigns and every of them for ever by these presents that the same Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife Have and each of them Hath granted bargained sold alienated released and confirmed and by these presents Do and each of them Doth grant bargain sell alien release and confirm unto the said John Cheesman and (in their actual possession now being by virtue of a Bargain and sale to him thereof made by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife for the consideration of two shillings by Indenture bearing date the Day next before the Day of the Date of these presents for the Term of one whole year commencing from the day next before the day of the date of the same Indenture of Bargain and sale and by force of the Statute made for transferring uses into possession) and to his heirs and assigns All those *two pieces or parcels of Land commonly called or known by the name of the Finches or howsoever otherwise called or known or whether called containing by estimation four acres be the same more or less situate lying and being at or near Lodge Oak in the parish of Tonbridge* aforesaid heretofore in the Tenure or occupation of Thomas Barber deceased since of Elizabeth Barber his widow and Thomas Barber party hereto late of William Jewhurst and now of the said John Cheesman his assigns or undertenants together with the Lane thereunto leading and belonging bounding and abutting to the Lands called Wickenden heretofore of David Polhill Esquire and now of



William Woodgate Esquire towards the east north and south and to the lands formerly of Jeffery Amhurst Esquire and now of Charles Willard Esquire towards the west or howsoever otherwise the said pieces or parcels of Land be bound or abut And all Trees ways paths passages waters watercourses hedges hedgerows fences rents easements commons and common of pasture profits Commodities hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said pieces or parcels of land hereditaments and premises before mentioned or any of them belonging or in anywise appertaining or accepted reputed or taken demised letten used occupied or enjoyed as part parcel or member thereof or of any part thereof or to be belonging thereunto And the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders yearly and other Rents Issues and profits thereof and of every part thereof with the appurtenances And all the estate right Title Interest use possession property possibility Inheritance claim and Demand whatsoever at law or in equity of them the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife and each of them of in and to the said pieces or parcels of land hereditaments and Premises hereinbefore mentioned and intended to be hereby granted and released and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances And all Deeds evidences and writings receipts and muniments whatsoever touching or concerning the said hereby granted and released hereditaments and premises or any part thereof solely together with the attested copies of all such other Deeds evidences and writings as relate to or concern the same jointly with any other lands Tenements or hereditaments of greater value which now are in the hands custody or possession of them the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or either of them or of any other Person or Persons to their or either of their use or by or with their or either of their delivery or privity or which they or either of them can lawfully come by without suit at Law or in equity To have and to hold the said pieces or parcels of land hereditaments and all and singular other the Premises hereinbefore mentioned to be hereby granted and released with the appurtenances unto the said John Cheesman and William Archer and their heirs to the use of the said John Cheesman and William Archer and the heirs and assigns of the said John Cheesman for ever Nevertheless as to the estate and Interest of the said Wiliam Archer and his heirs therein In Trust and to and for the only benefit and advantage of the said John Cheesman his heirs and assigns for ever and to and for no other use and intent or purpose whatsoever And whereas the said fine so covenanted to be levied by the said Thomas Barber and Mary his wife as aforesaid hath been duly levied accordingly as by the same remaining on record may appear Now this Indenture further witnesseth that for the Considerations aforesaid and to the intent and purpose that the said pieces or parcels of Land hereditaments and premises shall and may be more effectually conveyed and assured unto said John Cheesman and William Archer and the heirs and assigns of the said John Cheesman to the use and in manner aforesaid They the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife in pursuance of the power and authority to them given and reserved in and by the said in part recited Indenture and of all other powers

and authorities vested in them or to them belonging or appertaining or to them in anywise reserved or given and in part exercise and execution thereof Have and each of them Hath limited directed and appointed and by this present Deed or writing by both of them signed sealed and delivered in the presence of the two Credible persons whose nmes are intended to be hereupon indorsed as witnesses attesting the due execution hereof by the the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife Do and each of them Doth limit direct and appoint That from henceforth the pieces or parcels of land and hereditaments hereinbefore particularly described and expressed to be hereby granted and released with the appurtenances and the said fine so as aforesaid levied thereof and the hereinbefore in part recited Indenture and all other Conveyances and Assurances in the Law of the said pieces or parcels of land and hereditaments whereunto they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife are or is party or parties privy or privies shall as to the said pieces or parcels of land and hereditaments be and enure and be adjudged deemed construed expounded and taken to be and enure and the said Henry Headland the connree in the said fine and his heirs shall stand and be seised of the said hereditaments and appurtenances To the only proper use and Behoof of the said John Cheesman and William Archer and the heirs and assigns of the said John Cheesman Nevertheless as to the estate and Interest of the said William Archer and his heirs of and in the said premises In Trust and to for the only benefit and advantage of the said John Cheesman his heirs and assigns for ever and to and for no other use and intent or purpose whatsoever And the said Thomas Barber party hereto doth hereby for himself and for the said Mary his wife his and her heirs executors and Administrators Covenant promise and agree to and with the said John Cheesman and William Archer and their respective heirs and assigns in manner following that is to say That the said hereinbefore recited power of appointment is at or immediately before the sealing and delivery of these presents in full force and in no wise suspended released or extinguished And also that for and notwithstanding any act matter or thing and matters or things whatsoever had made committed omitted done or suffered by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or by the said Thomas Barber the great uncle or by the said Thomas Barber the father of the said Thomas Barber party hereto or any or either of them to the contrary They the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife now at the time of the sealing and delivery of these presents have in themselves or one of them have or hath in himself or herself good right full power and lawful and absolute authority to grant and release and that the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife have full Power to limit direct and appoint the said pieces or parcels of land and hereditaments with their appurtenances unto the said John Cheesman and [blank] and their heirs To the use and in the manner aforesaid and according to the true intent and meaning of these presents And also that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said John Cheesman and William Archer and the heirs and assigns of the said John Cheesman from time to time and all times for ever hereafter peaceably and quietly to

have hold use occupy possess and enjoy the said pieces or parcels of land and hereditaments hereinbefore mentioned and intended to be hereby granted and released limited directed and appointed and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances and to receive and take the rents Issues and profits thereof without any lawful Let Trouble Suit Claim eviction denial molestation or interruption of or by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or either of them their or either of their heirs executors or administrators or any of them or of or by the said Thomas Barber the great uncle or the said Thomas Barber the father of the said Thomas Barber party hereto or of or by any other person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim by from or under him or any or either of them or by from or under his their or any or either of their act or acts means consent procurement or agreement And that free and clear and freely and clearly acquitted exonerated and discharged or otherwise by the said Thomas Barber party hereto his heirs executors or administrators well and sufficiently saved harmless and kept indemnified of and from all and all manner of former and other gifts Grants Bargains and sales mortgages Leases annuities Jointures Dowers Judgements executions extents statutes merchant and of the staple recognizances wills uses intails rents rents charge rents seck arrears of rents fines postfines Issues amerciaments and of and from all other Titles Troubles Charges and Incumbrances whatsoever at any time or times heretofore had made committed omitted done or suffered by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or by the said Thomas Barber the great uncle or the said Thomas Barber the father of the said Thomas Barber party hereto or hereafter to be had made committed omitted done or suffered by by the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or either of them their or either of their heirs executors or admors the said hereinbefore in part recited Indenture of mortgage or Demise and the Land Tax and the rents and services from henceforth to grow due and payable to the chief Lord or Lords of the fee or fees of whom the said premises or any of them are or is holden for or in respect thereof only and always excepted and foreprized And further that they the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or their and each of their heirs and all and every other person and persons now having or lawfully claiming or who at any time or times hereafter shall or may have or lawfully claim any estate right Title or Interest at Law or in equity of in or to the said pieces or parcels of Land and hereditaments hereinbefore expressed to be hereby granted and released limited directed and appointed or any part thereof with their appurtenances by from or under the said Thomas Barber party hereto and Mary his wife or the said Thomas Barber the great uncle or by the said Thomas Barber the father of the said Thomas Barber party hereto or any or either of them shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter at and upon the reasonable request and at the proper Costs and Charges in the Law of the said John Cheesman his heirs or assigns make do acknowledge levy execute and suffer or cause

APPENDIX VI

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or promise to be made done acknowledged levied executed and suffered all and every such further and other lawful and reasonable act and acts thing and things Devices Conveyances and assurances in the Law whatsoever for the further better more perfectly and absolutely conveying settling and assuring the said pieces or parcels of land and hereditaments hereinbefore expressed to be hereby granted and released limited directed and appointed with the appurtenances to the use and in manner aforesaid as by the said said John Cheesman his heirs or assigns or his or their Counsel learned in the law shall be reasonably devised or advised and required so as such further Conveyances and assurances contain in them no further or more extensive Covenant or warranty than only against the persons making the same and their heirs and so as the parties who shall be required to make and execute the same be not for the doing thereof compelled or compellable to go or travel from the place or places of his or their respective Dwelling or abode at the time of such request to be made In witness whereof the said Parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the Day and Year first above written.

Tho. Barber, Mary Barber, Geo: Children, John Cheesman’.

*Transcribed by Gillian Rickard for Geoffrey Barber, October 2013*



## APPENDIX VII

### Transcription of the William Barber Letters (1894)

The letters have been transcribed exactly as written. Comments enclosed in brackets are not part of the letters.

Brighton 3 March 1894

good luck to you Willie you Shall have

My dear ada I was very glad to get your nice Letter it fair cheer me up not only that it makes me feel Quite Happy when ever I hear news from my Love one and the only one that I realy do Love I Shall never Like any Body else Like you and if I see any Body else Better than you they would not get me for my ada is the one she is true and so am I and always Shall be to you darling until we are married then I Shall be Better you know ada I Like you from the first and I wanted the other young Laidy to go over to my side did you notice it for as I say again I Like you first and I Shall Like you from the end and always Respect you as a Realy (?) Laidy when we see a nice Play (?) we will enjoy ourselves I will keep you Happy for ever and I shall never be cross with you ever if you are with me Because I am not like that and never Shall be for I am the merriers (?) man alive I will write an Histry out of my Life when I get a chance But you know there is no chance when you are so Busy

my dear ada you must not trouble about the Books I am in no Hurry for them you Read them first and then let me have them if you like and you can ask to get off Late thursday then we can Enjoy ourselves I see your Laidy friend on the front Last night and she spoke to ted But they come to geather again no more. Smoking (?) in bed now. if you were with me to match (?) me it would be all Right dear

you must Excuse me this morning Because my hand shake a bit But never mind cheer up ada thursday is coming if you can get Wednesday get it ada that is if it dont make any difference to the gentleman so good morning ada from your Loving Willie for ever and I send my best respect to your sister and my Best Love to you

cheer up my darling good morning to you and good Luck to you

xx

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxx

My dear ada I am very anxious to know how you are getting on and I have

got the Books Ready Last night when I got home so if you will Let me know when you can get out I will Bring them with me and their is some nice tells in them and I know that will suit you if they suit me a one (?) and their is some Loving (?) tells in them to and very fitting (?) ones to just our mark and you must Let me know our your Sister is getting on because I Like to know our people are doing well and our they fill (feel ?)

My dear ada Excuse this paper(?) You must Excuse this Letter as I am in aful(?) Hurry and cant stop to Long But I must write to you for I thought of you this morning when I got up at 5 am (?) But it was a nice morning just suit me a one (?) so my dear ada cheer up for I must tell you Some more tells (?) I must Learn some more good ones like the Silver King (?) that was very good was it not I ..(?) will cheer up you dear

My dear ada you must excuse me Writing to you Like this as it is my dinner time and you know dear I must eat as much as I can for your sake as we Love another we must eat now what do you say about it ada, dont you think that I am Right about it ada you just think it over a tell (?) me in your Letter who eat the most thos in Love or those out of Love.

Cheer up my darling and no more of waiting outside

so good by ada from your Loving Sweetheart Willie ...(?) for ever and ever dont forget it

as many waves in the sea as many kiss I send thee.

Willie send is Best Respect to your Sister goodby ada

from your doveted sweetheart Willie

to My x dear x ada x

William Barber Esq (?)

78 Lincoln St

My dear ada I now going to write you a nice Letter that is if I get the time and I want to know weather you got the keys Last night Because I was waiting outside for about 10 minutes I thought that you could not get down stair and I thought the master was keeping you so I went home and thought of you and I said to myself that I will write to morrow and I am keeping my word and always Shall with you as Long as I Live so hope on darling for the Best dear ada I did not pick up anything this morning that Because you did not Come (?) out to the gate Last night But my dear ada I was just as Happy Because I said goodnight to you before you went in and that is everything to me ada so good morning on this side (of the letter) a we (me ?) will begin another side

My dear ada I am always Happy when I write to you and feel a new man and you I know feel a new Little miss and Best Little Laidy in all the world and my dear ada Let me know how those books suit you then I shall know what else to give for you know I have all kinds of Books and good ones we

APPENDIX VII

---

will go on all the way through Life Like that we will have things good what  
say you ada Little and good Like you are what do you think ada when I got  
home Last night I had (?) a Read in Bed and my Pipe on and I wish that I  
was talking to you all the time my mother (?) my Book early this morning in  
the Bed I was Reading a nice Book and thinking of you fell off to sleep and  
I got up at 5 this morning

Cheer up good by

ada

so good morning ada from your Loving Sweetheart William  
for ever and ever

and my Best Respect to your Sister

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

these will cheer you up

good luck to you

good luck to you ada

in a Hurry now

just my Luck

My dear ada I am very Sorry that I could not write to my ada before But  
cheer up my sister Law is going to ask you up to tea as soon as I Like you to  
come and the Boots that you sent me fit as if they were made for me and I  
will Let you know all about the Boots on Thursday or before that now I have  
got 3 pairs of Boots now But our about the charwoman (?) what will she say  
you will talk to her But I will see you on thursday and then Explain to you  
our to go on with the Laidy

my sisterLaw fair like you and mother she I know will Like you when she see  
you and my SisterLaw means to have you up to tea and you will be Long  
with your Willie that will suit us just Right and thanks for the Boots

my dear ada I am very Bussy just now and I realy cant stop to write any  
more. But thanks for those Boots

Excuse the Writing my sister Law send her Love to you

Hopeing you will Come to tea soon and Willies Best Love to ada and is Best  
Respect to your sister so good morning ada

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

# INDEX

This index lists all the people and places mentioned in this book. The variant spellings of the surname Nynne (Ninne, Nyn, Nynde, etc) have been standardised to “Nynne”. The surname Barber alias Nynne was no longer used after the family moved to Tonbridge/Hildenborough so the name becomes just Barber starting with Thomas Barber born 1640 in Rotherfield who was the person to move to Tonbridge c1670.

In the case of female names, square brackets refer to their married name - e.g. Alice [A'Downe] - while round brackets refer to their maiden name - e.g. Elizabeth (Fuller). Unknown surnames are written as (--?--) and would typically be used for the unknown maiden name of a married woman.

People with the same name are differentiated by their birth year, such as “Barber, Thomas (1585)” or their location, such as “Barber, Thomas (of Ticehurst)”.



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## About the Author



Geoff has been researching his family history since about 1983 as time and distance permitted. Before retirement in 2008 he spent twenty years in the IT industry in software development for the mining industry and then ten years as a financial advisor including five years as a co-proprietor of a small practice in Subiaco, Western Australia. He now operates a bed & breakfast, teaches the mandolin and maintains his family history web site [www.barber.org.au](http://www.barber.org.au).

When Geoff started researching he was very dependent on the resources of the LDS Family History Centres, ordering microfilms of parish registers, census returns, etc., from Sydney or even Salt Lake City, which would take weeks to arrive. For a number of years he worked as a volunteer librarian at his local LDS library but consciously took a break in the early 1990s when the future impact of information technology on genealogy became obvious. Since retiring he has been able to dedicate more time to his research. The advances in technology and more affordable travel to archive offices in Sussex and Kent have had an enormous impact on his productivity, to the extent that this book became possible.